REDEEMER COLLEGE LIBRARY
777 GARNER ST. E. Dec '98
ANCASTER, ON
L9K 1J4

Christian Courier
A Reformed Weekly

REDEEMER COLLEGE LIBRARY
CHRISTIAN COURIER OCT 26 1998
PER/BX/9401/.C36

54th October 23, 1998 No. 2594 $1.07

TDCH students see the world with new clarity

The Lord said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground" (Genesis 4:10).

Janelle Vanderkooy/Mike Visser

WOODBRIDGE, Ont. - As North Americans we may think we are informed. The world is at our fingertips through a wide variety of media such as television, newspapers and the Internet.

We live in a free society— free to worship, free to speak out and free to do as we please. We live comfortable lives in one of the world's richest countries, but too often this causes us to have rose-colored glasses. Through our hindered vision, we fail to realize the suffering and persecution taking place around the world and even in our own backyards.

As students of Toronto District Christian High School in Woodbridge, Ont., we had the rare privilege to step away from our ordinary lives and school work and take time to "count the cost."

On October 7-9, TDCH held a school- and community-wide conference entitled "Counting the Cost." Students and visitors attended seminars for two days, hearing speakers tell stories that left them in a state of shock.

We heard stories of people who experienced suffering in third-world countries. A media show visualized pain and poverty, and local politicians discussed their roles as Christians in the political spectrum.

In all, 50 speakers of different racial and denominational backgrounds were present to relate their stories to us. Through this we were able to experience the true cost of being a Christian all around the globe.

A group of 15 students were privileged to observe the event as student reporters, editors, photographers and illustrators for the *Christian Courier*. Under the leadership of Bert Witvoet, we were charged with capturing this momentous event.

It is our hope that, through the stories, pictures and accounts in this publication, you too may experience the essence of the event, to see the world with renewed vision and clarity and to learn to be a faithful disciple of Jesus in the local and global community.

Janelle Vanderkooy and Mike Visser are fifth-year OAC students who functioned as editors of the six-page section that reports on the special emphasis days held at TDCH in Woodbridge, Ont.

For more coverage of the TDCH conference, please see pages 11 to 14 and 24. The pictures of the event were taken by Sean deZoeten, Louise Loten, Phil Vriend and Bert Witvoet.

This page sponsored by:
DUCA CREDIT UNION
5290 Yonge St. Willowdale, Ont.
Phone: 416-223-8502

News

Christianity an underground religion in Turkey

Robert VanderVennen

ISTANBUL, Turkey — Travellers in Turkey today see mosques at every turn, but they won't see a Christian church unless they are led to one by a person with inside information. Yet in the early centuries after Jesus lived, Turkey (then called Asia Minor) was a nerve centre of the Christian faith.

Dr. Bastiaan Van Elderen recently led 19 people, mostly Canadians, on a two-week tour of Turkey. Van Elderen has done extensive archaeological work in Turkey and was professor of New Testament at both Calvin Theological Seminary and at the Free University in Amsterdam. He is currently executive director of The Scriptorium in Grand Haven, Michigan.

Van Elderen showed the group places where the Apostle Paul and his co-workers crisscrossed the land. He took the group to the churches where the seven letters in the book of Revelation were written, and where most of the early ecumenical church councils were held.

ROBERT VANDERVENNEN

The group was greeted by the Patriarch's secretary, Father Tarasios, an articulate American-born Greek, in the ornate basilica which is the place of worship for the residents of the monastery there.

Hard times

A highlight of the tour, according to group members, was a visit to the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul. The resident Patriarch, Bartholomew I (who visited Canada not long ago) is first-among-equals of the four Eastern Orthodox patriarchs, and Istanbul (which the Orthodox refer to as Constantinople) is the centre of Orthodoxy.

The group was greeted by the Patriarch's secretary, Father Tarasios, an articulate American-born Greek. Group members were met in the ornate basilica which is the place of worship for the residents of the monastery there. Fr. Tarasios said Orthodoxy traces its heritage to the Apostle Andrew, whose ministry in Turkey was extensive. Bartholomew I is considered to be the 293rd successor to St. Andrew.

Fr. Tarasios explained that the church in Turkey lives in hard times today, even though Turkey is officially secular. The government claims all native Turks to be Muslim, and it is illegal for a Muslim to convert to Christianity. There is discrimination in employment against Christians, and last December a bomb was thrown into the Patriarchate complex, killing one person.

Fr. Tarasios called the role of women in his church "very developed, very participatory," though others would certainly dispute that. It is true that, having parted ways with the Roman church, most clergy are married.

As a witness

Van Elderen's group later met with Metropolitan Gennadius, who explained that the Patriarch is elected in a way very similar to the way the Roman Pope is elected. Though there is no open conflict between church and government, Fr. Gennadius admitted that in many places today church buildings are monuments only.

So why does the church stay in Istanbul? As a faithful witness to the long and powerful Christian history in Turkey, the group was told. And there is work to do in Turkey: the Patriarchate is not only the centre of Orthodoxy but also invests heavily in dialogue among Christians of different churches, said Fr. Tarasios.

There is much evidence of worship in Turkey today. Beyond the countless mosques there are temples for ancient gods, the worship of emperors and the ruins of Christian churches. But not much praise to Jesus Christ arises today from this land which was once at the heart of Christian worship.

B.C. citizen group calls for fair voting system

CC staff

VANCOUVER — The present electoral system in B.C. is out-dated and undemocratic, according to a new citizens' group. The group was formed to lobby for changes to the system that elects the provincial government. Fair Voting B.C. recently launched a province-wide campaign aimed at promoting a provincial referendum on ballot box reform.

The non-profit advocacy group is made up of citizens from all parts of the political spectrum. It is calling on British Columbians to pressure sitting MLAs to commit to a referendum on a new voting system that would be based on proportional representation, which would effectively distribute political power based on the actual popular vote.

"British Columbians are ill-served by a voting system that gives 100 per cent of the power to a political party whose leaders and policies more than sixty per cent of voters reject," said Fair Voting B.C. president John Vegt, a Surrey chartered accountant.

"In recent elections, regardless of the party elected ... most voters got neither the local candidate nor the government they voted for," Vegt said. "Our winner-take-all voting system doesn't work and we want to change it."

Vegt explained that a new voting system based on proportional representation would not only give voters more clout, but would also be more inclusive, and would encourage greater participation by ordinary voters rather than leaving decision-making to special interest groups.

"We would end up with less polarization in our provincial politics with a voting system based on proportional representation," says Vegt. "Instead of worrying about having to vote strategically, perhaps for a second choice, to keep one party out of office, voters would be free to vote for the party of their choice. And as for parties, they would learn to work together instead of instigating unproductive fights."

Rep-by-prop brings accountability

In announcing the Fair Voting B.C. efforts to change the province's voting system to make it more proportional, Vegt was joined by fellow directors Nick Loenen, Bob Ransford and Enrico Diano. Fair Voting B.C. directors are also supported by an advisory board. Board member Vancouver businessman Andre Molnar points to the fact that in many democratic countries — including Germany, South Africa, Belgium, Ireland and Hungary — voting systems are based on proportional representation.

Molnar recounted how his native Hungary, once dominated by an oppressive Communist government, adopted a proportional voting system to maximize the country's new democratic rights and to keep government accountable and responsible.

"Under a proportional representation system, governments are elected by true majorities. That is the essence of democracy. Anything less is tampering with democracy," declared Molnar.

Among other initiatives of its campaign plan, Fair Voting B.C. is calling on the B.C. Electoral Boundaries Commission to request that the government expand its mandate to allow it to consider electoral reforms based on a proportional voting system. It is also requesting that the B.C. Civil Liberties Association challenge the current provincial voting system in the courts, arguing that it violates the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

van der Woerd
LAW OFFICE
David A. van der Woerd B.A., LL.B.
In Association With Ross & McBride
Commerce Place 1 King St.W., 10th Floor, P.O. Box 907, Hamilton, Ontario L8N 3P6
Tel. (905) 577-6205 Fax (905) 526-0732

Christian CEO group addresses challenges faced by managers

CC FILES

Hans Vander Stoep, co-ordinator of CCCEO.

Alan Doerksen

BURLINGTON, Ont. — Where does a Christian who is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of a company turn when he or she has a serious business problem? The Council of Christian CEOs (CCCEO) aims to help Christian employers and managers by providing opportunities to meet with peers and discuss issues of concern in a supportive, confidential atmosphere.

Net worth not important

Personal net worth is not a criterion for membership, according to Hans Vander Stoep, co-ordinator of CCCEO. But members need to be at the level of CEO — president, chairperson, or the equivalent management position — in their companies.

Vander Stoep sees the main purpose of CCCEO as "to be better Christian business owners." One challenge for Christian CEOs is "how to run a business in a Christ-like manner and still make a profit," says Vander Stoep.

Vander Stoep, who is also executive director of the Canadian Christian Business Federation (CCBF), sees the new organization as working on a different level from CCBF. Whereas CCBF focuses on business people in general and addresses their concerns, CCCEO deals with issues facing managers in particular, including managers of large-scale companies. Such leaders face issues on "a different scale" from other business people, says Vander Stoep.

Issues such as corporate fraud, the effect of a business on the environment, profit sharing, and health and safety in the workplace are challenges that could affect high-level CEOs differently from small business employees and managers.

Vander Stoep says CCCEO is separate from but complementary to CCBF. "A number of the participants are also members of CCBF," he notes.

Only Christian CEO group in Canada

Although there are other business groups for CEOs in Canada, Vander Stoep says he believes CCCEO is the only such Christian group in Canada.

So far, there is one CCCEO chapter in Ontario. It meets four times a year in a central location for five hours on a weekday. Most members are too busy with their businesses to commit to meeting more often, explains Vander Stoep. In the near future, he plans to start several regional groups for the Niagara-Hamilton area, the Greater Toronto Area, and southwestern Ontario.

Most CCCEO meetings feature a well-known speaker addressing a topic such as transition to new leadership in a business, employee empowerment, time management or success without burnout. The latest meeting, in September, focused on mental health in the workplace. "Seventy to 80 per cent of our speakers are Christians," says Vander Stoep.

Between meetings, Vander Stoep visits each participant to identify issues he or she is seeking solutions to or advice on. Based on this information, Vander Stoep arranges speakers who can address issues of concern at future group meetings.

He stresses the importance of CCCEO being an interdenominational group. Because of this, members "can share the richness of their business experience and their faith experience."

Since CCCEO started about one year ago, some members have started to do business with each other, notes Vander Stoep. Don Hoekstra, one participant who works with Prism Resource Management, affirms this. "The best part of being a part of this group for me ... has been the opportunity to meet and share ideas with other participants," says Hoekstra. "I have learned a lot from our exchanges and in a number of cases, I have added these individuals to my network of associates, and have begun to do business with their firms."

Fred Bennink, another participant, comments, "The interaction and camaraderie at the group sessions is very encouraging, and knowing that what is said stays in the group gives me the freedom to share things that I normally might not have. The variety of businesses and the age spread (25 to 70) add much to the overall makeup."

At this point, reports Vander Stoep, all participants in CCCEO are male, although one woman came to early meetings of the group.

That still small voice

Marian den Boer

"Prompted by faith, Noah being forewarned by God concerning events of which as yet there was no visible sign, took heed and diligently and reverently constructed and prepared an ark for the deliverance of his own family. By this his faith which relied on God, he passed judgment and sentence on the worlds unbelief and became an heir and possessor of righteousness." (Heb.11:7, The Amplified Bible)

In hindsight I should have used the sunscreen. I shouldn't have eaten that extra sausage. I should have put more air in the air mattress. And I should have moved the van away from the edge of the street. In fact, I should have obeyed that oh-so-sensible still small voice.

On a beautiful sunny morning at Darien Lake I did remember to apply sunscreen to my sun-sensitive nose, but at noon when a thought to reapply the sunscreen passed through my mind, I didn't do it. It's just so peaceful to be at lunch and not get up for anything — ask any mother of six kids who is away on a camping holiday with her husband and just one of their children.

At suppertime I fried up a package of five sausages on our trusty campstove. We feasted on creamed corn, applesauce and cheese-filled sausages on buns. Marty had two sausages, I had one, and Michelle had one. The sensible thought was to wrap the extra sausage in tin foil and share it for breakfast. I ate it instead; my second one.

Then, after a fun-filled evening, as we were bedding down in the tent, I realized that my side of the air mattress felt a little soft. I remembered Marty mentioning how the previous night he had awakened every time he rolled over because his part of the mattress was too soft. I accused him of turning the mattress over, but that's another story. Good sense told me to blow up the air mattress before going to sleep. Nah, I vetoed that. I was too cozy and tired, and instead, snuggled down into the double sleeping bag.

'Just a little thick'

Well, sure enough I woke up every time I rolled over. But it took four wake-ups before I actually crawled out of the sleeping bag to do what I should have done much earlier. Back in the sack, wide-awake, I realized my stomach ached with a heaviness — that extra sausage, maybe? Also my nose hurt; felt sort of burned.

Now one would think that with these three fine examples of what happens when I don't listen to that sensible, still small voice, I would change my ways. But it seems to me I must be just a little thick.

The other day I encountered more evidence of that while in our van in a pick-up area at the front of a building along Hamilton's Main Street, waiting for my daughter Alison. As a bus crept by within inches of my driver's-side window, I knew the van was a tad close to the traffic whizzing along Main Street.

Back up into the empty space behind you and get the left side of the van out of the gutter, said that still small voice. *It's not worth it; Alison will be here any minute,* argued my lazy self.

Not three minutes later, the time it would have taken me to start the van and back into the spot behind me, a pickup truck flew by with a thud. I looked out at my side mirror. The glass was cracked into a dozen pieces. That cost me $25 and 30 minutes at *Standard Glass.*

Lord help me to obey your still small voice.

Marian den Boer lives with her husband, Marty, and five of their six children in Hamilton, Ontario. Contrary to evidence suggesting otherwise, she has been made righteous because of what Jesus did in 2 Cor. 5:21.

SPAIN 'WINTER BREAK'

Departs Feb. 01, 1999 — 3 weeks

Would you enjoy getting away this winter by spending 3 weeks in Spain and stopping over in Holland on the return? Then this is for you! Join Hans and Corrie Meiboom for a tour that includes 2 nights in Madrid, 1 night in Seville, and 17 nights on the Costa Del Sol (1 bdrm. apartment stay). Cost is $2,389 pp. (double). Tax/Insur. Extra.

If you are interested in joining contact: **Hans Meiboom, 31 First Avenue, Trenton, ON K8V 4C2. Phone: (613) 392-8821**

Arranged by:

Verstraete Travel & Cruises

*** Aurora * St. Catharines**

Editorials

On our way to the heavenly Mecca

The other day I was talking with a young Jewish-Canadian couple. They are Jews ethnically and politically (they are allowed to vote in Israeli elections even though they were born here), but they do not adhere to the Judaic faith. Somehow we got onto the topic of pilgrimages.

The husband reflected on the fact that Muslims have a religious obligation to visit Mecca once in their lifetimes. He thought that Christians had a similar obligation to visit Palestine and the City of Jerusalem.

I said, "No, not really." I realized that it must look that way to others, because every year on Good Friday and Easter, large crowds of Christians set off for Israel and walk the Via Dolorosa.

I explained to him that Christians who understand what the New Testament teaches do not consider Palestine the Holy Land and Jerusalem the Holy City. We may die happily without ever setting foot on Jewish soil. There is no religious obligation, I said. If people do go to Israel, it is because they want to visit places the Bible talks about. But I wasn't sure whether I was speaking for all Christians.

At that point the man's wife asked whether there wasn't a Christian book called "Pilgrims" whatever. "Yes," I said. "You mean *Pilgrims Progress* by John Bunyan."

I went on to explain how that book offers a metaphor which pictures how Christians look at their stay on earth as a journey. "To Christians, life is a pilgrimage," I said, "and heaven is our Holy City. This perspective helps us understand that we should not seek our happiness in things of this earth; that we should not be materialistic, for example; not cling to life itself. Our true home is heaven."

A dissipating force

The explanation seemed to satisfy the couple, although it left me with a sense of not having fully explained what the Christian faith is about. I don't want people to think that being a pilgrim is all there is to being a follower of Christ. So much of our daily life is taken up by tasks in the Creation and by neighborly relations with unbelievers. You can't always focus on the gulf between you and others.

Similarly, our lives are more than pilgrimages. Being married and living in a certain town for a dozen or so years, for example, doesn't feel much like traveling, does it?

We need to keep the tension alive between fully participating in the task to develop this earth and looking forward to a better world. I couldn't or didn't present that tension in the brief conversation I had with the Jewish couple, and maybe that's alright.

When I came home, I looked up a few verses in the First Epistle of Peter. I came across an interesting passage in 1 Peter 4. Other people "think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you," writes Peter in verse 4. Peter says this in the context of being "aliens and strangers." The "flood of dissipation" refers to a destructive lifestyle of "debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry" (vs.3).

Have you seen much of the flood of dissipation lately? Not a bad way of describing what happens to people who give in to sinful desires. Sin disperses and destroys as effectively as Hurricane Georges did in the Caribbean. A sin-driven society turns people who attempt to live holy lives into aliens.

BW

Christian Courier

Formerly known as Calvinist Contact
Founded in 1945

An independent weekly that seeks to:
- ***report on significant events in the Christian community and the world;***
- ***express opinions infused by Scripture and rooted in a Reformed perspective;***
- ***provide contact for the Christian community.***

CHRISTIAN COURIER STAFF

Editor: Bert Witvoet **cceditor@aol.com**
Managing Editor: Marian Van Til **ccmanager@aol.com**
Promotions&Marketing Director: Diane Klein **ccadpromo@aol.com**
Reporter, Layout: Alan Doerksen **ccjournal@aol.com**
Circulation Manager: Grace Bowman **ccsubscrip@aol.com**
Advertising, Layout: Ingrid Torn **ccadpromo@aol.com**

REGIONAL REPORTERS:

Jeff Hoogendoorn, Victoria; Jacky Naayer, Abbotsford, B.C.; Gordon Legge, Calgary; Jessie Schut, Edmonton; Valerie Walker, Halifax; Robert VanderVennen, Toronto

EDITORIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wendy Saunders, Margaret Griffioen-Drenth, Doug Roorda, Harry der Nederlanden, Erick Schuringa, Nelly Westerhoff.

The publication of comments, opinions or advertising does not imply agreement or endorsement by *Christian Courier* or the publisher. Please contact the publisher if you cannot afford the subscription price but want to receive *Christian Courier.*

Christian Courier
4-261 Martindale Rd., St. Catharines, ON, L2W 1A1
Tel: (905) 682-8311;
Fax: (905) 682-8313;
E-mail: cceditor@aol.com

About this week's special look and feature

Ren Siebenga continues to do what he and others did so well at Durham Christian High School in Bowmanville, Ont., when he was principal there — he introduced Emphasis Days to Toronto District Christian High School. The school halted normal operations for three days and went into a conference mode. Students of all classes mixed freely and attended assemblies and workshops having to do with the theme "Counting the Cost — Learning to Be a Disciple of Jesus."

For two weeks the signs were up at TDCH: "The Countdown Begins/ Counting the Cost/ 50 Speakers/ Live Music/ Questions?/ Ask Mrs. Loten."

So I asked Mrs. Loten. Louise Loten is a teacher of English and world religion and chairperson of the special emphasis committee. "What is the value of this type of conference for students?" I asked.

"We hope it will broaden our students' perspective on Christians and the world, will challenge them to greater commitment and will deepen their love for Jesus," she answered.

In preparation for this event, the staff had read Paul Marshalls *Their Blood Cries Out* and had engaged students in inner-city ministry work such as feeding the hungry, washing the feet of street people and putting new socks on their feet. Out of that came the TDCH student action "Sock it to 'em!," a way of collecting new socks for the Toronto Evergreen program.

Siebenga had first asked me to report on the conference. I had agreed. Then he foisted the idea on me that it would be good if I could lead a group of students in reporting on their own event. Again, I agreed.

And then came the bold suggestion that we try to get page sponsors for these reports so that we could afford the extra cost of printing the pictures in full color. The idea of color pictures appealed to me so much that I decided to give six full pages, including the front and back cover to the students' reports.

And thus it came to pass that this week's issue of CC is a very unusual and, we hope, attractive presentation of a unique event in the lives of 280 students and their teachers.

Christian Courier is open to repeating this kind of coverage with other schools if those schools can provide a unique and significant experience, page sponsorships and full student and staff co-operation.

As a final note on this experience: I was extremely pleased with the work of the student reporters, photographers and editors (editor Mike Visser did all the lay-out work). It was like working with very competent and dedicated adults. Thank you, TDCH crew! **BW**

Letters

Wildeboer's blanket criticism creates vacuum for 'lollipops'

Now that Henry Wildeboer has been appointed as director of [Christian Reformed] church development (CC Sept. 25), perhaps he could address more fully his implied criticisms of the denomination he serves.

For example, there is his call for "older churches to break out of their tradition-bound mode." The tradition of the church includes a covenantal theology that finds its roots in the Bible and its best expressions in Augustine, in Calvin and Luther, and more recently in Kuyper, Bavinck, Berkouwer and Berkhof.

The Reformed tradition of the church includes a blending of hard-headed theology with personal piety and godly living in a document called the *Heidelberg Catechism.* It includes a body of poetry, hymns, psalms, and a long history of choral and congregational singing that became the practical theology of the people. It includes significant contributions to the ideals of religious liberty, the democratic state and freedom in education. The tradition respects marriage, family, hard work and humble living.

Which of these does Wildeboer discount?

The problem with a blanket criticism of tradition is twofold. It tends to appeal to small peeves and prejudices against the past. It is just another way of saying that the current generation is really the first one to get things right.

Secondly, it creates a sort of ecclesiastical vacuum which will increasingly be filled with what J.I. Packer has called "pietistic goofiness." Witness the rise of the lollipop microphone, hymns sung to a wearisome rock and roll beat, choruses without content, and the never-ending game of liturgical see-and-do which leaves one feeling infantile and longing for that after-the-service cup of coffee.

Presumably, Wildeboer favors neither tradition nor goofiness. What, in detail, *does* he favor?

Who leads?

Then there's Wildeboer's criticism of seminary training: "At seminary, ministers are not trained to be leaders, but servants and preachers." Given that the church has always taught that only the Lord leads the church while the rest of us follow him, it seems to me that the seminary has got this one right.

By contrast, Wildeboer's formula for preachers does not sit so well: "The first three years you need to be a servant, willing to do anything. Servanthood builds credibility. Once people trust you, you are allowed to lead."

How different is this from gaining people's trust so that you can get them to do what you want?

Finally, there are Wildeboer's comments about resistance he has seen in churches. How is this "resistance" different from "the folks who happen to disagree with Wildeboer"?

"Legalistic, hard and inflexible?" I can well imagine that a preacher who wades into a church of tough-minded Dutchmen and -women with an ambition to improve them by pruning their traditions, after gaining their trust, will find it hard sledding. But "demonic"? Missing "the Spirit of the Lord"?

Would it not be better to leave that kind of judgment to the Lord of the Church?

Tony VandenEnde
Cambridge, Ont.

Little comfort, some hope

I hope family and friends of the victims that died in the car crash referred to in your editorial of Sept. 25 don't read it. I don't feel they would find much comfort in knowing that the Lord had determined that their work on earth was finished, unlike Hoytema's and de Lange's.

Thanks for C.C. I am encouraged when I read letters and articles from Michael Geisterfer, Henk Hart and Gerald Vandezande. I know there is hope when Adrian [Peetoom] and Mary [VanderVennen] can celebrate and communicate the true meaning and celebration of communion, and when Bill Phipps, moderator of the United Church, can ask questions without pretending to know that the has all of the answers.

Your front-page story on Henry Wildeboer (CC Sept. 25) has some probing observations mixed with some sound advice. Keep up the good work.

Bernie Bax
Sarnia Ont.

Beware of leadership tag

It's hard to argue against the evangelical ideas of Henry Wildeboer (Oshawa pastor wants to revitalize established churches, CC Sept. 25) because they sound so good and Christian and biblical. However, there are some things in his line of thinking that really bother me and the Christian Reformed Church should be very wary in implementing his ideas.

Wildeboer wants to train minister to become leaders. Would this training be synodically approved or would it be leadership the "Wildeboer way"?

Of course, Calvin Seminary "trains ministers to be servants and preachers." That is because the CRC does not recognize an office called "leader." Leadership comes from an individual church's council as a whole.

Demeaning charge

Wildeboer's description of traditional ministers as "emptying their bag of sermons and moving on to the next charge" is very unfair and demeaning. It totally ignores the thousands of people who have been touched and uplifted by the excellent pastoral care extended from the hearts and souls of these pastors — care that reflects the heart and soul of Christ himself!

The danger of raising up "leaders" is that the leader says "this is the way" and everyone is expected to follow — after all, he should know because he's been trained.

Wildeboer himself even alludes to this danger when he says "the lasting impact of a leader comes after the sixth year." In other words, by year six, all those who disagree with the leader have quit their positions on the council or on committees, or have even left the church; and the leader is then left with a bunch of like-minded followers.

The cows need to be fed

I feel the problem in the CRC is that too many people do not really know what it means to be a true Christian or to be Reformed. These people are very vulnerable to those who want to abuse their power and/or position and call themselves "leaders."

The preaching of the Word has always been central to the Reformed faith, and if done properly can go a long way in nurturing and pastoring God's people, even if by way of "a 25-minute monologue." If I don't feed my cows, how can I expect to extract any milk from them? If the church is not fed through the preaching of the Word, how can we expect them to evangelize?

This whole current emphasis on leadership in the church finds its roots in American evangelicalism. This is a movement that comes into the church not from the Bible but from the business world. Words like "leadership" and "vision" and "goals" and "motto" and "long-range plan" are all business terms. And the problem is, they all ignore the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit.

Is the CRC tired of following the invisible and sometimes slow leading of the Holy Spirit? Do we, instead, want to bow down to the nice shiny and glamorous golden calf of North American evangelicalism?

Bill Los
Listowel, Ont.

Best wishes but no link

In the Sept. 25 issue of *Christian Courier*, a news story about singer Darrin Berg's tour of Reformed churches and Christian schools mentions that the concerts are "courtesy of Youth Unlimited and Christian Schools International." While Christian Schools International wishes Mr. Berg well in his ministry, we are not sponsoring or contributing financially to his work.

Daniel R. Vander Ark
CSI Executive Director
Grand Rapids, Mich.

Christian Courier

Member of Canadian Church Press and Evangelical Press Association.
Canada mail: Publications Mail Registration No. 0451. Postage paid at St. Catharines, Ont. Postmaster: send address changes to Christian Courier, 4-261 Martindale Rd. St,. Catharines, Ont. L2W 1A1.
U.S. mail: Christian Courier (USPS 518-090). Second-class postage paide at Lewiston, NY. Postmaster: send address changes to Christian Courier, Box 110, Lewiston, NY, 14092.

Subscriptions:	**Canada**	**U.S.A.**
(effective Feb. 1, 1995)	(GST incl.)	(GST free)
one year (44 issues)	$43.50	$35.00 U.S.
two years (88 issues)	$82.00	$66.00 U.S.
three years (132 issues)	$123.00	$99.00 U.S.
overseas one year	$135 airmail	$85.00 surface mail

Advertising deadlines: display advertising: Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.; classified advertising: Thursday, 8:30 a.m. All deadlines are for the following week's issue. See classified pages for more details. Advertising rate sheets available.
(ISSN 1192-3415) Published weekly on Fridays except for Feb. 27. April 10, June 12, July 10, Aug. 14, Oct. 2, Nov. 27, and Dec. 25.
Address all correspondence to: 4-261 Martindale Rd. St,. Catharines, Ont. L2W 1A1, Tel: 905-682-8311 or fax: 905-682-8313, e-mail: subscriptions: ccsubscrip@aol.com, advertising: ccadverts@aol.com
PRINTED IN CANADA

Letters (continued)

Why re-embrace dichotomies?

I have followed with interest the recent exchange between Al Wolters and Hendrik Hart on unchanging principles, as well as the responses by readers. It seems to me that the central issue is not whether there are unchanging principles, but which principles are unchanging and which are mutable.

When I was an undergraduate more than 20 years ago, I became aware that Scripture is filled with calls to do justice, particularly to those who are weak and defenceless. This made a huge impression on me at the time, and it was a large part of what pushed me into the study, and eventually the teaching, of political science. Is the call to do justice not an 'unchanging principle'? I would be very much surprised if Hart were to disagree.

At the same time that I was discovering the biblical commands to do justice, I came into contact with the reformational perspective of Abraham Kuyper and Herman Dooyeweerd, and I was struck by its remarkable ability to cut through such false dilemmas entailed in opposing law to gospel, word to spirit, fear to love, authority to servanthood, creation to compassion, etc.

Within the discipline of political science I found it particularly helpful in correcting the all too common tendency to play off power and justice against each other. Prior to this I had come close to thinking that a concern for justice necessarily entailed a repudiation of power, a position that now seems to me to be wholly inadequate.

It puzzles me to see people who were raised with a reformational worldview (as I was not) so readily moving to re-embrace these dichotomies.

David T. Koyzis
Ancaster, Ont.

Church needs sect

The recent dialogue in *Christian Courier* between Henk Hart and Al Wolters reminded me somewhat of the relationship between church and sect. Some knowledgeable readers may immediately think about the sociologically ascribed differences between the two [sect and church]. But that is not what I have in mind.

In fact, my view is sociologically quite unorthodox. My starting point is Scripture and, more narrowly, the Apostle Paul's dealings with his opponents. However wrong Paul regarded them to be, he apparently did not break bonds with them. In a sense, he needed them to clarify points of doctrine.

Similarly, the church needs the sects. The latter may overemphasize one or more points at the cost of others, but often do so where the church underemphasizes those points. When sects leave the church, they impoverish themselves because they miss a corrective voice; and they impoverish the church because they withdraw correction the church needs.

As much as church and sect need each other and form one body, so we need a Hart and a Wolters (or is that a Wolters and a Hart?). Although their views differ significantly, they still call each other brother.

Bert den Boggende
Lacombe, Alta.

The anecdote was not about gay sex

I was looking forward to an interesting exchange of ideas between Henk Hart and Al Wolters. I was disappointed to see Wolters depart from the realm of ideas and declare that Hart's "denial of timeless principles is essentially a 'red herring.'" This attack was based on his misguided presumption that Hart's anecdote about a straight and gay Christian simply *had* to be about "gay sex."

The incident that Hart referred to was similar to what many gay people, including myself, experience when the Christians we are talking to suddenly realize that we are gay. Some accept us warmly. Others switch to Defensive Mode and read their version of the Scriptural Riot Act: "I can accept you as a homosexual, but in no way can I approve of homosexual behavior," etc. They don't have to know anything about your personal life. They express no interest in how you feel or think about the situation. They have their convictions and you have to know them. Even though they assure you they can "love you as a Christian," and that they believe their views are not the least bit homophobic, their behavior leaves you feeling alone, judged and about as welcome in their community as a hamburger at a vegetarian picnic.

If you reread Hart's anecdote in the context I've outlined, you will understand the point he was making concerning the power of the Holy Spirit. While Louis Tamminga knew nothing about the altercation that took place, his choice of Scripture sent a powerful though uniquely different message to the straight and gay Christian that led to their reconciliation after the meeting: "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

Don Baxter
Toronto, Ont.

No canon then

In his column of Oct. 9, Al Wolters states: "The Spirit gives no new revelation beyond the truth continued in Scripture." My question is: How did Wolters come to this conclusion, for when Jesus spoke the words of John 16:13, there was not yet one letter written of the New Testament and it would take centuries before the churches would tentatively agree on the canon of the New Testament.

Christ said: "The Spirit will tell you what is yet to come." Wolters explains: "Christ did not mean that the Spirit would give new revelation in subsequent ages." But can we restrain Christ's and the Spirit's activity? The text says more about "the Truth" than about "the Word" (much of which still had to be written).

Rem Kooistra
Waterloo, Ont.

Spread the wealth

Regarding your report on Dr. John Bolt's address on greed (CC, Oct. 9), in attempting to address the imbalance of mainline Christianity's emphasis on social witness, it seems to me that Dr. Bolt errs in the opposite direction of spiritualizing our witness. Why try to declare that greed is spiritual *but not* social? Surely it is *both*.

Greed may be "spiritual" at root, but it certainly also manifests itself and is propagated in social and cultural institutions, economic structures and political systems.

As a consequence, I would argue that our Christian public expression must go beyond declarations that greed is a "spiritual ill." Such a fundamentalistic expression of Christianity will certainly not enhance the public perception or legitimacy of our witness. Rather, we need an integral witness that links the root biblical message with insightful analysis of our society's social, political and economic problems.

And why link the importance of a renewed Christian witness against greed with a critique of redistribution? I agree that any politics of redistribution without addressing issues of greed will not produce lasting justice. Yet I find it a little ironic, in light of Dr. Bolt's comments, that in one of the classic New Testament stories of repentance from greed, Zacchaeus, the cheating tax collector, follows up on his repentance with a massive redistribution of wealth. Then there is the Old Testament principle of jubilee. Surely these suggest that redistribution is a good antidote to greed.

Thankfully, we still hear an integral witness linking faith and social justice from Christian organizations such as CPJ (Citizens for Public Justice), though I fear that its message is often too "redistributionalist" for many conservative Christians.

Ray Vander Zaag
Kanata, Ont.

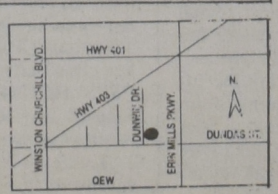
TIME FOR NEW FURNITURE?

Come and see our beautiful showroom with the European flair!

SCHRÖDER FURNITURE

... for that special item!

Our "coil" spring furniture has all the support and comfort you need.



Mississauga, Dundas St. — 2 Blocks W. of Erin Mills Parkway (905) 828-9511

Book Review

The Masada tragedy for contemplation by young readers

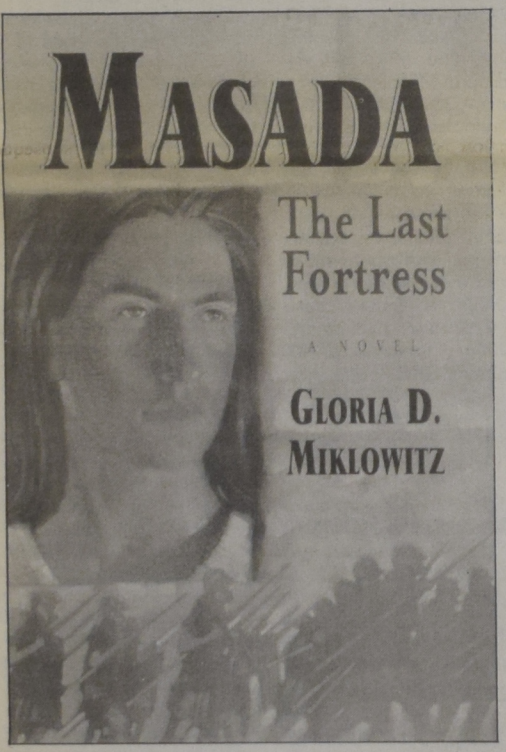
Marian Van Til

Masada: The Last Fortress

A novel by Gloria D. Miklowitz

Grand Rapids, Mich.; Cambridge, Eng.: Wm. B. Eerdmans (Eerdmans Books for Young Readers), 1998. ISBN 0-8028-5165-7. 188 pp. $ (US).

It is AD 72 (or in secular parlance, 72 CE — Common Era), after a four-year war between Rome and Judea. The only Hebrew holdout against the Romans is the community of 960 Jews living in the impregnable mountain fortress at Masada, two-thirds of the way down the southwestern shore of the Dead Sea. The fortress was built by one of the Herods as a personal refuge, which he had equipped with weapons, foodstuffs and cisterns for a constant water supply in this desert land.



So far, the Romans have not advanced on the Jews at Masada, and life is as normal as it can be in such a place. But the inevitable must happen: one day a distant cloud of dust and the ever-louder marching thud of thousands upon thousands of soldiers, horsemen and those carrying equipment and supplies signal that the Jewish community's days of isolated peace may be nearly over.

Sharply contrasted viewpoints

Aimed at teenaged readers, this novel dramatically and poignantly weaves well-drawn fictional characters into what we know of the historic and heroic last-stand of the Jews at Masada.

Gloria Miklowitz chooses an interesting storytelling device which proves effective: she presents her tale in alternating first-person accounts, told initially from the "diary" of 17-year-old Simon ben Eleazar, son of the Jews' military leader; then from the notes of the aging Flavius Silva, the Roman general whose 10th Legion was to have captured Masada in a few short weeks, bringing his prisoners to Rome and ending the era of Jewish resistance.

This approach obviously lets us in on the story from both sides, and gives insights into each sides' worldview, characters and habits which would not have been possible had the story been told from one side only.

As a helpful visual delineator, each chapter containing Simon's story is headed with the visual symbol of a minorah (seven-stemmed candlestick); each chapter from Flavius' viewpoint is capped with a Roman eagle/wreath military symbol.

Unexpected courage

Miklowitz's characters nicely contrast with one another. Simon's talent lies in healing, and, unable to get a medical education because of the Jews' predicament, he becomes apprenticed to the community's physician — a skill which will soon serve them all well. Simon is not a young man who often asserts his own will. But that changes when he realizes he loves his best friend John's girlfriend. The romantic subplot is well-resolved and will add interest for many young readers.

Simon's younger brother, Aram, is even less assertive than Simon. But both brothers prove, in very different ways, that they are courageous even to death.

John, his girlfriend Deborah, Aram's girlfriend Sara, the physician and his daughter Salome, Simon and Aram's father and mother, Rabbi Hillel — and on the Roman side, Flavius' second in command, Marius — are some of the other characters who are developed to varying degrees, and are realistically drawn.

The story, with its necessarily tragic ending, is based on careful historical research, but has enough depth and "human interest" to satisfy even very astute young readers. The book would make interesting and helpful introduction or companion reading to a classroom study of the Masada resistance.

The only bones one might pick here are with Eerdmans' editor(s), who let a couple of very obvious grammatical errors get by (mostly in the first five chapters), and who didn't notice that Chapter XXII, told by Flavius, is mistakenly headed by a minorah instead of the Roman Empire symbol.

South Africa changes tune on radio control

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (EP) — In response to letters of protest from around the world, the South African government seems to have backed away from a measure which would have closed Christian radio stations by excluding "communities of interest" in a new broadcasting law (see CC, Sept. 11).

A clause of the proposed broadcasting bill has been changed to call for a study of the idea of phasing out "communities of interest" from radio licenses. The South African group Christians for Truth reports that current Christian broadcasters will have their licenses renewed while the study is underway — at least four years.

Go! Install Windows 98 — or not?

(religiontoday.com) — Computer Solution Minute (CSM) concisely reviews Windows 98 to help Web visitors make an informed decision — or to find out about features in their already-upgraded system software.

CSM also provides "real audio" daily broadcasts by William O'Flaherty. CSM's aim is to provide brief, useful information on a variety of technology and computer issues mostly aimed at the novice. Topics include "Can You Travel Route 98?" and "Is Windows 98 the Place to Be?"

Web visitors can subscribe online to a free weekly e-mail list which contains each week's articles and more. CSM is a brief, helpful review, not a complete reference or FAQ on Win98 or computers in general.

Computer Solution Minute: http://www.netastic.com/csm

For our Calendar of Events, please turn to page 22.

$20 OFF!

— I want to pay only $23.50 for a one-year subscription to *Christian Courier*.

— I am under 40.

— I am a new subscriber.

— Yes, sign me up.

COUPON COUPON

Please enter my subscription for one year immediately.
I enclose a cheque for $23.50, payable to *Christian Courier*.

Name

Address

City/Town Code

Church

Serb, Albanian churches work on loving their neighbor

BELGRADE (religiontoday.com) — Serbian and Albanian churches are co-operating, despite the long and bloody ethnic conflict in the area.

Churches in Yugoslavia are working together with Bread of Life, a Belgrade-based relief organization, to supply soap, shampoo, toothpaste, and other items to 20,000 displaced people in Kosovo.

Yugoslavian churches are working against powerful cultural biases, according to ChurchNet UK news service. Emotional messages of Albanian terrorist acts are broadcast regularly on Serbian television, but there is little mention of the killing of Albanians in Kosovo and the destruction of their property.

Believers discussed what it means to love one's neighbor at a recent Belgrade meeting. An elderly Serbian man warned the group not to let the media poison their minds but instead to ask themselves, "What would I do if I were an Albanian mother in Kosovo?"

Bread of Life has distributed 10 metric tons of food to churches in Kosovo. "In this area where so many have suffered because of divisive politics, we Christians must speak another language, not the political language," Bread of Life's Jasmina Tosic said. "We must follow Christ's example and show equal compassion for all suffering people despite the political storms that divide."

Germans pray for their nation

MUNICH (religiontoday.com) — German Christians observed a Day of Prayer Oct. 3. About 4,000 from various denominations declared Germany's national holiday a "Day of Prayer for Germany" with meetings in 20 cities, idea news service said.

"We believe that even the most serious problems can be turned around and solved through prayer and courageous actions," church leader Friedreich Aschoff said.

Churches prayed for protection of the unborn, strong families, and those affected by unemployment. They also confessed "all our ingratitude and guilt past and present," the news service of the German Evangelical Alliance said.

PBS names most influential religious figures of century

NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP) — Who are the most influential religious figures of the 20th century? The American Public Broadcasting System (PBS) television program "Religion and Ethics NewsWeekly" has compiled a list of people of different faiths from around the world, including Billy Graham, C.S. Lewis and Norman Vincent Peale. PBS is the U.S.'s equivalent to the CBC in Canada, though it is supported mostly by viewer/listener donations rather than government funds.

In alphabetical order, the PBS "top 25" are: Karl Barth (Swiss pastor and theologian); Dietrich Bonhoeffer (German pastor and author of *The Cost of Discipleship*); Martin Buber (Jewish theologian); the Dalai Lama (Tibetan Buddhist leader); Dorothy Day (founder of the Catholic Worker Movement); Mary Baker Eddy (founder of the Christian Science cult); Mohandas Gandhi (Indian spiritual leader); Billy Graham (evangelist); Gustavo Guitierrez (Peruvian Catholic founder of liberation theology); Carl F.H. Henry (evangelical theologian and founding editor of *Christianity Today*); Abraham Joshua Heschel (rabbi and civil rights activist); Pope John XXIII; Pope John Paul II; the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. (civil rights leader); Ayatollah Khomeini (Iranian Muslim leader); C.S. Lewis (author and Christian apologist); Thomas Merton (Trappist monk and writer/poet); Elijah Muhammed (Nation of Islam leader); Reinhold Niebuhr (Protestant theologian); Norman Vincent Peale (advocate of "positive thinking"); Walter Rauschenbusch (father of the social gospel); Albert Schweitzer (theologian and humanitarian); Menachem Mendel Schneerson (Lubavitch rabbi); Mother Teresa; and Elie Wiesel (Holocaust survivor and author).

"Religion and Ethics NewsWeekly" began its second season on September 4 with a discussion of influential religious leaders of the 20th century. The half-hour program airs on PBS stations across the U.S.

Indian Christians unite to protest increased persecution

NEW DELHI, India (Compass) — India's Protestant leaders have spent a large part of their summer protesting a sharp rise in the number of anti-Christian atrocities which have occurred since the Hindu nationalists formed a minority government in March.

Christian leaders in Tamil Nadu state blame India's new government for the increased number of atrocities. They asked for protection in an August 13 letter to the president of India, listing 26 assaults on evangelists and Christians workers by mobs from the Hindu radical groups. Tamil Nadu is India's most southeasterly state, with around 3.5 million Christians in an overwhelming Hindu population of 65 million.

"Hindu extremists are terrified that the lower castes are going to defect *en masse* to Christianity, and thus topple the entire Hindu edifice," says Rev. Valson Thampu, a Christian author and academic. On September 9, church leaders from all over India convened in New Delhi to discuss the extent of persecution and ways to fight it. The consultation is believed to have been the first of its kind in India.

Britons are 'beautiful heathens' says Palau

(religiontoday.com) — "Britain is pagan," evangelist Luis Palau said. "Its people are beautiful, wonderful heathens. They take it in good humor when I say that, but the nation needs a real touch from heaven."

People are cynical, and church attendance is down as a result, Palau added. "Evangelism is hard.... The British always seem to question God's goodness and power."

Paying his debt

The Argentine-born evangelist recently completed a three-week trip to seven cities in England. "I keep telling the British that I'm here to pay my debt. They brought the gospel to Argentina, and now we're having to bring it to England," he said during a radio interview. Palau preached to more than 850,000 people worldwide in 1998, the Luis Palau Evangelistic Association says.

REDEEMER COLLEGE

You are cordially invited to attend the Inauguration of

Dr. James R. Payton, Jr. as Professor of History

His inaugural lecture is entitled:

"From Byzantium to Bosnia; On the History of the 'Other' Europe"

Friday, November 6, 1998, 8:00 pm
Redeemer College Auditorium

Reception to follow in the Art Gallery

777 Garner Road E. (Hwy 53), Ancaster, ON, (905) 648-2131

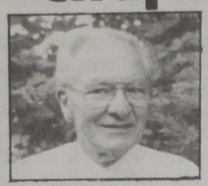
Economical Christmas Greetings

Reach family, friends, and acquaintances across North America with your personal Christmas greetings for **only $25** (GST included).
Our **December 4 Christmas Issue** will be seen by up to 100,000 readers! To purchase a 2 1/2" (wide) by 11/2" (long) Christmas message card...

...send us your brief Christmas message (printed legibly) along with your name — as you want it to appear — and your $25 payment before **November 18, 1998.** Hurry (include your phone number).

Reformed distinctives

Chapter & Verse



Wayne Brouwer
● Andrew Kuyvenhoven
Laura Smit
Al Wolters

The Reformers of the 16th century distinguished themselves from the Roman Church by their insistence on "by faith alone, by grace alone, Scripture alone, Christ alone."

This insistence on the "alone" remains a mark of Reformed churches. The Western Catholics and the Eastern Orthodox also recognize the authority of Scripture for the church's teaching. However, the Bible is not their only authority. Tradition is another source.

Instead of the word "alone" they use "and." (I think Karl Barth was the first to say that the "and" of Rome still stands over against the "alone" of the Reformation.) They say Scripture *and* tradition are our norms for faith and life. And,yes, without faith nobody will be justified before God. But in 1547 the Roman Church condemned those who teach that a man is justified "by faith *alone*." Churches that are rooted in the Reformation confess that Christ *alone* is our intercessor and mediator (Article 26, on the intercession of Christ, is one of the two longest articles in the *Belgic Confession*). But those who condemned the Reformation continue to seek access to God not only through Jesus but also by means of many saints, and especially with the help of the Virgin Mary.

Totally dependent

Grace alone, faith alone, Jesus alone and Scripture alone are Reformed characteristics that date back to the 16th century when the Reformation distinguished itself from the Roman Church. But in the 17th century the Calvinistic (Reformed and Presbyterian) churches distinguished themselves from the Arminian wings of the Reformation. They wrote the *Canons of Dort* and the *Westminster Confession* and catechisms. One might catch these additional Reformed qualities by the word *total.*

All Protestant Christians believe that human beings are sinners but Calvinists insist that the power of sin has *totally* incapacitated all people. We are totally dependent on the Holy Spirit. "You alone to God can win us; you must work all good within us."

All Protestant and evangelical Christians believe that we are saved by grace. But the Reformed insist that we are so totally dependent on the grace of God that unless we are chosen and regenerated by God's sovereign grace, we cannot even choose to believe. Yet, when God saves us, he saves us totally: body and soul, all that we have and are, and he holds us forever and ever. The word total must be added to the alone when one tries to say what is distinctively Reformed.

Most of us would add other marks to "being Reformed." These are characteristics we acquire in the 19th and 20th centuries and they apply to a smaller circle of Reformed, Calvinistic churches. Thus we would say (over against dispensationalists and millennialists) that Reformed churches read the Bible as teaching one Covenant of Grace that goes through two dispensations (Old and New Testament). Through Christ Abraham's promises are ours and we follow the better Joshua to the Promised Land.

Extensive and intensive

With the fundamentalists we oppose the arrogance of human reason and believe that the Bible is the infallible rule of faith and conduct. But we are less fearful of truth found in God's General Revelation — the creation — and by God's common grace (old dinosaurs and new galaxies). And we believe that the authority of the Bible as a book may never be disconnected from the authority of the message of the Book.

With many other Christians we believe that our word-and-deed-mission is to proclaim God's Word *extensively* (to the neighbor and to all parts of the globe) and intensively (to every human activity). Our heavenly calling must be fulfilled in this present life and on this earth. God's kingdom has come and is coming.

If the above lines form a rough sketch of what it means to be "Reformed," the question remains how important this business is to the coming generation. I am unsure. I pray that God will revive us, restore unity and use us for a new Reformation that is according to his Word and that meets the needs of the hour.

Andrew Kuyvenhoven, former editor of The Banner *and retired pastor of the Christian Reformed Church, lives in Grand Rapids, Mich.*

Graham announces 'Amsterdam 2000'

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (EP) — A worldwide conference for preaching evangelists will be held July 29 to Aug. 6, 2000, in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Plans for the conference were announced Sept. 15 by evangelist Billy Graham.

"In the midst of the rapid change in every phase of our lives, the task of worldwide evangelization remains a priority of the Body of Christ," Graham said. "Decay in the societies of the world, consternation in the governments and a deep heart-cry for revival throughout the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ all point to the need of the world for our Savior."

Graham continued, "The Lord of the harvest has many servants who are doing extraordinary work in bringing the Gospel to those who still sit in darkness. Their stories need to be known, their strategies multiplied, their commitments deepened and their fellowship enriched within the Body of Christ."

A great multitude

More than 10,000 participants (three-fourths of whom are itinerant evangelists) from at least 185 countries and territories, speaking at least 25 languages, are expected to attend Amsterdam 2000. Other participants will include theologians, strategists, church leaders and stewards. The meetings will be held at the RAI Conference Complex in Amsterdam, with a daily schedule of worship and prayer, plenary sessions and seminars and workshops.

Dr. John Corts, president of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA), will serve as general director of the conference. "World evangelization is fresh in every generation," Corts said.

"Though the message of the gospel and the need for that message will not change in the next century, the methods and delivery systems will be different. We can neither count on past victories or look ahead to anticipate how evangelism will be done in the future. But there is an urgency for us to meet and encourage one another in a task that seems more daunting every day, to commit to the things that won't change and to become excited again about what God is doing through his workers around the world."

Endorsed by diverse Christians

Christian leaders around the world have endorsed the upcoming Amsterdam conference. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. George Carey, said, "The issues confronting the human family today are more urgent than ever. There are now new challenges confronting the Christian faith which, I trust, [this] conference would address."

The Rev. Nikolai Nedelchev, executive director of the Bulgarian evangelical Alliance, agreed, saying, "There is a desperate need for church leaders to sit and discuss some important issues, and [Billy Graham] is one of the best persons to organize this discussion about how to continue and fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ to reach every person with the Gospel."

Charles Colson, president of Prison Fellowship Ministries, added, "The world is changing so rapidly before our very eyes, both in terms of technology ... as well as in the value systems now dominant particularly in Western culture, that the church urgently needs to re-examine its strategies for reaching the world."

Christian agency gives goats to poor

GUANGXI, China (religiontoday.com) — A Christian ministry in China is providing goats to poor people. The Chinese government has approved the program that is intended to lift people out of poverty in China's Guangxi province, says Partners International, which runs the project. So far, 34 families have received five goats each for breeding purposes. Each family is required to produce and pass along another five goats to another needy family every two years.

Flights
Cruises & Packages
Head Office
DCA Travel
SERVICE INC.
Canada wide
1-800-667-2525
TORONTO 416-224-5211
BRADFORD 905-775-6763
E-mail: dca _ travel@compuserve.com
Emergency Service Available
Business & Vacation Travel Worldwide!
Martinair - KLM - vacation

CHRISTIAN COUNSELLING SERVICES
2300 Yonge St., Suite 902,
Toronto, ON, M4P 1E4
(416) 489-3350

- Marriage & family counselling
- Individual & group therapy
- Vocational assessments
- Seminars & workshops
- Conflict mediation to business
- Accredited AAMFT supervision for marriage and family therapists
- CAPE supervision

Personal experience

When ADD goes to church

Jan de Bree

When I walked into the conference room I was given a centimetre-thick syllabus of articles on Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD). This was the topic of a weekend workshop for which I had registered because I work with youth, several of whom had ADD.

I took a seat at a table and to pass the time I looked through my syllabus. Of course, all the articles were about children, but in the centre I noticed an article entitled, "Attention Deficit Disorder: Not Just a Children's Problem Anymore." The authors said that children do not necessarily outgrow ADD. It may continue into adulthood. The article then described ADD in adults.

"I was criticized for not finishing what I started. I blurted out whatever came to my mind. I was too outspoken, even rude and self-centred."

While reading I thought that this description fit me. When I finished reading, I turned the page to find a list of 20 "suggested diagnostic criteria for attention deficit disorder in adults." I read them carefully and counted. I had 18 of the 20 suggested symptoms.

Following this workshop, I read books on ADD. I consulted my doctor. I checked my school records. From grades 1 to 3, I had one comment written in my report card: "Easily distracted." I had a history of failure at school. I was held back in kindergarten and failed grade 8 and 11.

Many accusations

My work history was not much better — a job change every two years. At home I was surrounded by a pile of partially read books and magazines, and a dozen unfinished projects, paintings, drawings, articles and a novel, not to mention the baseboards, gutters, cupboards without doors, and tools, screws and nails tucked away here, there and everywhere, along with pieces of paper, computer parts and disks.

While I worked on a project, I drank coffee, ate chocolate or other sweet foods to stimulate the taste buds and create a quick lift. I startled easily and I was quickly frustrated.

These behaviors of mine gave rise to a great deal of criticism from the people around me. I was criticized for not finishing what I started. I ate too fast, often standing or on the run. I blurted out whatever came to my mind. I was too outspoken, even rude and self-centred. Although I was generally soft-spoken, I talked too much and too intensely. I exaggerated and embellished. I was irreverent. I was a clown. I was crazy. I was lazy. I was not stupid, so I could and should do better and try harder.

The oldest in a family of four boys, I was a baptism by fire for my mother, she said. I was into everything. At age three I walked out of the house to visit my aunt two kilometres from our home. The police brought me home because I had lost my way. Several days later I walked to the police station because they had served me ice cream when I was lost and I wanted more.

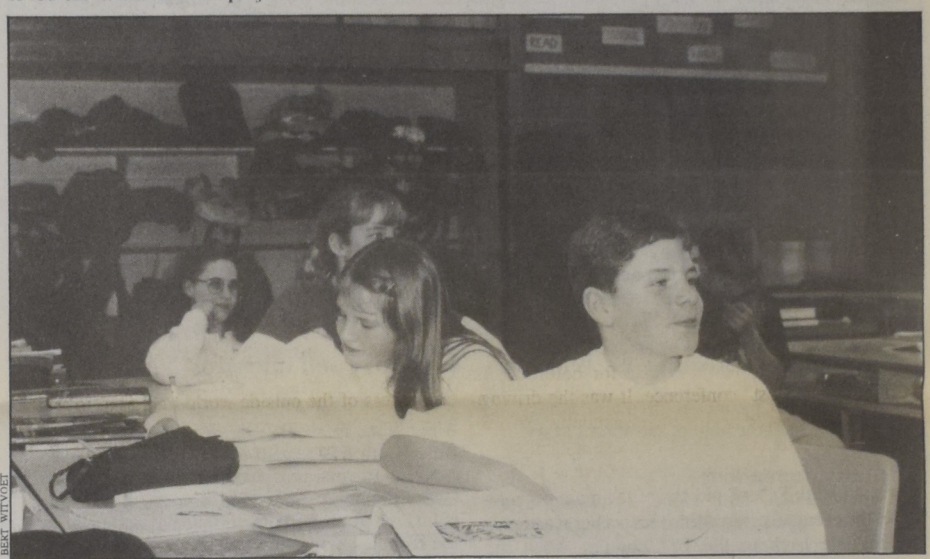
I talked and walked before I was a year old. I asked many questions. I had a wonderful imagination that created problems for me. My father thought I was inquisitive and highly intelligent, but he was at work during the day and did not have to suffer my insatiable appetite for excitement and the accompanying mess I made in the house.

The criticism led to a deep sense of failure, self-hatred and a drive for self-control so I would be accepted and liked. Unfortunately willing self-control led to more failure and eventually to bouts of depression. Over the years I did learn to present myself as calm while inside of me twisted a whirlwind of vibrating energy.

Discouraged and depressed, I attended college. I began with professional goals, but quickly they fell by the wayside because I discovered that I was not a traditional learner. I rarely sat to study or read. I'd wander around the library looking for the excitement of a conversation. I never did the required reading for my courses. During class lectures I took scanty notes (sometimes none) and often fell asleep. By my third year my only goal was to finish college to prove to my friends and family that I could do it. And I did.

Against orderliness

Several years passed, plus several attempts at finding a career and more education before I could accept myself as a creative, hands-on person who loved the excitement of projects such as drawing, painting and writing. Although I had resolved the struggle over my abilities, there remained a problem that continued for many years. It was an underlying feeling that I did not have what it took to be a Christian.



BERT WITVOET

I had one comment written in my report card: "Easily distracted."

At one point in my life I concluded that I was not a Christian because I did not have the capacity. Being disorganized, impulsive, restless and distracted were not admired Christian qualities. The opposite was true. (Recently a visiting pastor mentioned in his sermon orderliness as a Christian quality.) No amount of coffee or chocolate (which I consumed for the caffeine) could make me feel like a worthy Christian, and therefore it took even longer for me to accept myself as one.

During church services I found listening and concentrating difficult. But when I did hear what was said, I heard mention of steadfastness, single-mindedness, orderliness and finding rest in God. Fidgeting did not seem to fit with those qualities.

Actually, restlessness was a characteristic of the disobedient Israelites when they wandered aimlessly in the desert. They had difficulty concentrating their efforts on God and often were distracted by pagan idols. That problem came about because of their inability to finish the task of conquering the land of Canaan.

Yes, I was sensitive to what the pastor said from the pulpit, especially if he talked critically of impulsiveness, restlessness and distractibility. It took a long time for me to learn not to take the minister's words as an attack on me and my behavior, but to take them as thoughtful and caring words, not meant to hurt me.

In that learning process I also discovered that people-watching and listening to noises inside and outside the church were not as serious as I had believed they were. These activities were not sins. I was not Israel distracted from the worship of God by an act of disobedience.

Just a label

I have thought about Attention Deficit Disorder often. At present it is almost fashionable, and many misbehaving boys (especially boys) are diagnosed with the disorder. I have even asked myself if it is real. The symptoms are plausible, but the explanation for the cause of the symptoms appears contradictory. At times I believe the symptoms can be brought on by stress and anxiety and are not ADD.

There are days when I think that I am looking for an easy label to pin on myself to explain my behavior — to attribute my emotional turmoil to a physical condition. Maybe that makes the behavior more acceptable. But when I read the literature again and review my experiences, I believe there *is* a group of symptoms called ADD and I believe that this condition has contributed, at times, to making my faith life one full of guilt and discouragement.

One Sunday morning my youngest brother and I walked out of church together. He asked, "Did you notice?"

I asked, "What?" He would not tell me and continued asking if I had noticed. So I said, "You mean the shadows of the light fixtures on the back wall behind the pulpit?"

"Yes," he said. "I knew that you would see them." He smiled. A good guess for him because I had not spoken to him about my wandering senses.

The important discovery for me on this arduous journey has been that my salvation is not dependent on my ability to sit still, to concentrate and to keep my mouth shut in church.

Jan de Bree is a freelance writer living in Duncan, B.C., who is quite capable of putting his thoughts on paper in an "orderly" way.

Student reporter Brandon Weening interviews principal Ren Siebenga and teacher Louise Loten.

Why count the cost?

Brandon Weening

WOODBRIGDE, Ont. — "You can't walk away" sums up the fundamental reason for holding the "Counting the Cost" conference. It was the driving force that bridged the gap between the months of planning and the implementation of the event itself.

Mrs. Louise Loten, a teacher at Toronto District Christian High School and one of the main organizers of the event, expressed this view as her reaction to the book *Their Blood Cries Out* by Paul Marshall. The book offers a view of the Christian church around the world and studies the many hardships and the persecution that are the results of Christian faith.

Mr. Richard Vanderkloet, a teacher at the school, first read the book over two years ago and was so moved that he passed it on to some colleagues in September 1997. After teachers read the book, it became clear that, as a school body, we just couldn't walk away from all the hardships of our brothers and sisters around the world.

So the idea was proposed to integrate the suffering of the global church into the following year's curriculum and include a three-day conference focusing on the topic. After much brainstorming and discussion, the conference began to take shape. The first day, October 7, would focus on the suffering church around the world. October 8 would be based around the voice of the church in North America. The final day, October 9, would be devoted to student response.

A year-long curriculum emphasis was also established which not only studied the church's suffering but explored issues of social injustice as well. So TDCH had its theme for the 1998/1999 school year.

There were also other reasons for holding the conference. Mrs. Loten saw the event as an opportunity for us to "draw strength from hearing others' encounters with the Lord." The goal was to increase student awareness of the outside world and what is experienced by other Christians throughout the world.

After being part of the "Counting the Cost" conference, many participants came to realize that you definitely can't walk away.

Brandon Weening is a Grade 11 student from Bradford, Ont.

This page sponsored by:
Meadowvale Travel Inc.
Manager: Rita Klomps
6750 Mississauga Road
Delta Meadowvale Hotel
Mississauga, Ont. L5N 2L3
(905) 826-4141 1-800-387-2421

Incredible tales of cruelty

Kyle Menken

WOODBRIDGE, Ont. — The plight of Christians in Sudan is a long and appalling one. Only recently, however, have the stories of these believers' struggle been made public to the world. Even now only a few Westerners come into contact with the horrible reality which the Arab fundamentalist Muslim government is placing on Sudan's Christians.

Two speakers at the "Counting The Cost" conference, Mr. Cal Bombay and Ms. Linda Slobodian, made an audio/video presentation to kick off our three-day seminar. What they had to say was both shocking and revealing. Gruesome stories of merciless raids and attempted genocide by government-aided extremists showed us what persecution of Christians can be like. Sudan is separated into two parts: the modern, powerful, Arab Muslim north and the agricultural, poor, black Christian south. In 1989, a Muslim fundamentalist government came into power with the mandate to "win all of Africa for Islam." Since then the Sudanese government has tried to force all their Christian citizens to either convert to Islam or die. The government does not directly pay its soldiers, but allows them to take whatever "booty" they can accumulate. Ms. Slobodian told us this payment system results in the massacre of men and the taking of women and children for slaves, causing a huge slave trade market. Mr Bombay commented on the extensiveness of the slave trade by saying: "Some even [take their slaves] as far as Libya or Kuwait."

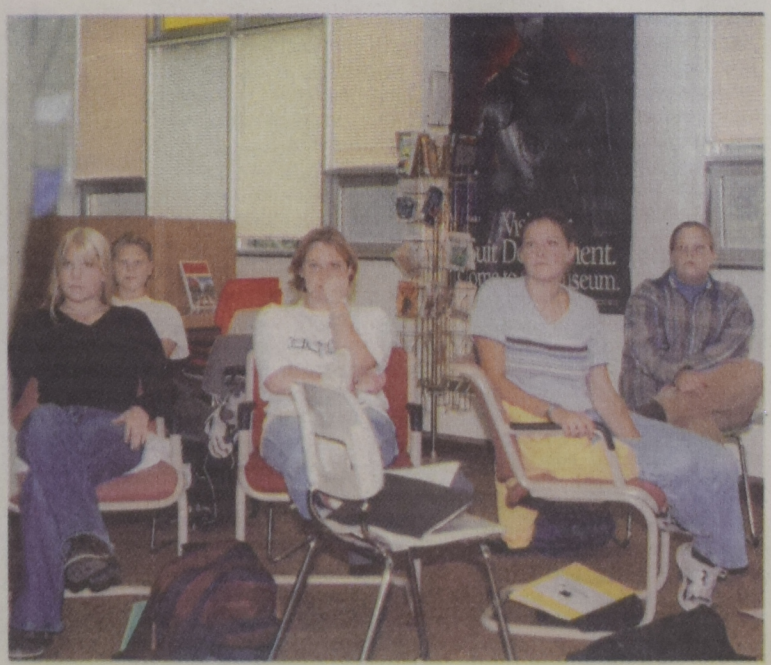
The individual stories of these slaves shocked and appalled us all. Women being systematically raped, boys having their limbs cut off for trying to run away and a six-year-old boy who was severely beaten for "playing." Countless families are torn apart and many children watch their parents being raped or killed. It is obvious how the government is planning to "win all of Africa for Islam" — through force and violence.

There is hope for Sudan's persecuted Christians. The Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) is quickly gaining more ground through military victories. Daily these poorly equipped soldiers fight for their faith and their families. The conviction shown by these men is incredible; they are all willing to lose their lives to further their cause. When asked by Mr. Bombay what was needed most by the SPLA, one commander made an astonishing reply. He asked not for money, weapons or any material need for that matter. The commander asked for prayer.

People such as Mr. Bombay and Ms. Slobodian are making illegal missions to Sudan in order to purchase slaves back. Mr. Bombay alone has bought 2,100 slaves back and plans to free even more once he receives further donations.

While the political institutions of the world remain largely silent about these issues, awareness of the violation of human rights in Sudan is growing. Journalists like Mr. Bombay and Ms. Slobodian are taking advantage of their positions to bring their story to regular people. Mr. Bombay quoted 1 John 3:17 when asking us to do our part. "If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?" Making a contribution doesn't mean traveling to Sudan to buy a slave back. The most important thing you can do, as the commander said, is pray.

Kyle Menken is a Grade 12 student from Georgetown, Ont.



Jocelyn Hurst, Nathan Westerveld, Janice Vanderkooi, Andrea Flack and Talitha Dykstra listen intently to guest Tom Freeman speak on "Guerilla Economics for Unemployed Youth" in downtown Toronto.

One drop of water

Jen Weening/Laura Helmus

WOODBRIDGE, Ont. — "To experience suffering is to experience the blessing of Christ." We know that people in China, Vietnam and Sudan suffer for their faith, but how much do *we* sacrifice for *our* faith? Very little.

After hearing the stories, reading about the heartaches and shedding a few tears of our own, one question remains: What are we doing to help the cause of Christians who suffer and are persecuted around the world? What can we do, now that we are aware of all they endure daily?

Mr. Efren Leakemariam (left), pastor of Bethel Evangelical Church, spoke on "Standing for God in a Communist State", and Rev. Calvin Dadian, who works with the Red Sea Mission Team, titled his workshop "Your Grandparents Killed Mine!", referring to the ongoing conflict between Armenia and Turkey.

Many of the speakers at the "Counting the Cost" conference addressed that very topic. We found out what these people face all the time. We sit and watch those haunting faces on television, but change the channel when it gets too much to bear, when they pull at our heartstrings and take us out of our comfort zone. We don't *want* to feel guilty; we don't *want* to feel the unbearable pain and suffering.

Everything we have learned in the past three days, the distressing pictures we saw, won't make a difference in our lives or in anyone else's unless we personally take steps of action. But what can we do? The guest speakers gave us many concrete ideas on how to help: taking part in a 30-hour famine, sponsoring Third World children, boycotting companies that use child labor, buying food for homeless people, volunteering at a food bank or mission, going on a missions trip to a Third World country, pressuring governments and corporations to fight poverty, giving a job to someone on welfare, giving to disaster aid programs or lobbying for justice and compassion. These are just a few of the options.

Our work for Christ may seem like a drop of water in the ocean of poverty and persecution. We may think it doesn't make a difference at all. However, if you consider the changes that can occur in *one* person's life because you give up a couple of hours, or a few dollars a week, you might change your mind. If you think about it on a personal level, if you consider the *one* life that you saved by giving of your time, money and love, it makes a world of difference. After all, an ocean is nothing but a few billion drops of water. Yet together, they form a vast expanse that is immensely powerful.

After you have given of yourself, you can personally see those faces with the haunting eyes and expressions turn into faces full of love and shining with a new radiance. You will have given these people new hope and a reason to live. We have to open our eyes to the world and take the pain and the heartache into our own hands. After all, if we are to follow Christ, we have to make the first move. James 3:5b says, "Consider what a great forest is set on fire by just a small spark." Just as a forest is set on fire by a small spark, a thousand-mile journey begins with one step. Will you be that spark? Will you take that step?

Laura Helmus is a Grade 11 from Etobicoke, Ont. and Jen Weening is a Grade 10 student from Bradford, Ont.

Praise the Lord with the sound of music.

Danielle Horlings, Heather Shaw and Heather Blacklock lead the school in singing.

This page is co-sponsored by:
Goodhoofd Inc. DESIGN COMMUNICATIONS
Toronto (416) 538-4454
Kooy Brother's Lawn Equipment Limited
32 Gordon MacKay Rd., Weston, Ont. M9N 2V6 (416) 242-3513

Sock it to 'em!

On October 24 and 25, the entire Grade 9 class visited downtown Toronto as an expression of the "Counting the Cost" theme. The group pictured above (from l. to r.: Ray Lam, Mike Bootmsa, Charlene Visser, Amy Hollander, Elise Goodhoofd and Marcel Vanderkloet), had the opportunity to serve at the Evergreen Youth Shelter. After witnessing people having their feet washed, cared for and given a pair of socks, they were informed about the need for socks. Taking matters into their own hands, these six students began "Sock it to 'em," a sock drive held at TDCH. Says Elise Goodhoofd, "Our goal is to collect 320 pairs of socks." She and others realize that something so small and insignificant is much appreciated by workers and clients at Evergreen. Charlene Visser also mentioned that, with winter coming, it is important that their "feet stay warm and clean."

by Janelle Vanderkooy

Walking in the midst of fire

Katherine H. Aukema

"A Christian walk is always a walk through fire". These thought-provoking words were spoken by Rev. Dr. N. Lysander, director of Child Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, at his seminar during the conference. Students explored different "fires" that Christians face daily. These fires include: economic disparity, social injustice, verbal assault, self condemnation, environmental issues and other fires of the devil.

Isaiah 61:10 says "I will clothe you with robes of salvation", meaning that the promises of God will protect when walking in the fire. Dr. Lysander says, "If you don't have a goal in your life, it will be very hard to find your way." What is that goal in a Christian's life? To move towards God. This is a great comfort to Christians because they know that God will walk with them every step of the way.

It is our responsibility to give those that don't know Christ the opportunity to know him, and he will rescue them from the fire. They need to be born again and have a new perspective on life — the perspective of a child of God. Together as followers of Christ we face obstacles that prevent us from reaching our goal. Dr. Lysander tells us, "Life is a walking adventure and we must face the problems as challenges. The walk will not be easy, but as long as you have God, you will get through."

Students who attended the workshop felt inspired by the message. "I could relate to [the fire]" says one student. Therefore, as Christians we must reach out and together meet the fires head on in all of our lives.

Katherine H. Aukema is a Grade 9 student from Brampton, Ont.

Being a Christian politician in Canada

David deGroot
Brandon Weening

WOODBRIDGE, Ont. — In today's society, politics are not generally associated with religion. But Gerard Kennedy, MPP for York South, maintains that "no one has to give up their values or convictions" when being involved with politics. This statement articulates the fact that he tries to integrate his religion with his occupation.

Both Kennedy and Marion Boyd, MPP for London Centre, participated in the "Counting the Cost" conference by discussing the role of religion in politics. Kennedy, a member of the Ontario Liberal Party, and Boyd, of the New Democratic Party of Ontario, joined the students and visitors to discuss and answer questions. The discussion was moderated by Gerald Vandezande, the head of public affairs at Citizens for Public Justice. Unfortunately, the complete political spectrum was not represented as no member of the Progressive Conservative Party was able to attend.

At one point in the discussion, there was a chance for students to ask questions. One student wondered how Mr. Kennedy and Ms. Boyd's beliefs affected their bills and policies. Kennedy explained how one of his party's bills aided in the financial relief of seniors from medicine costs. Boyd answered by describing her party's Private Members' Bill to set healthcare standards for all hospitals and medical centres in the province. They both stressed that their main job as opposition party members was to keep the current Conservative government responsible.

Gerard Kennedy (left), Liberal MPP for York South and Gerald Vandezande, Citizens for Public Justice, before taking part in a discussion on religion in politics.

The final question was posed by Vandezande. When asked, "What is the cost of having a personal faith in politics today?" Boyd responded by explaining how "all of your actions are put under a microscope." She added that in such a climate it is difficult to maintain one's faith. Kennedy referred to issues such as abortion, which are difficult to balance with his faith. They both struggle with representing their constituents while still maintaining their own faith.

Marion Boyd

Kennedy warned that politicians with personal beliefs have to "step their way carefully" in order to succeed.

The hate was killing her until . . .

Marcella Knibbe

WOODBRIDGE, Ont. — "I hated them for what they did to my dad," Dr. Achol Ayom Dor confessed boldly as she described her feelings towards the Arabs who tortured and murdered her father in public while she stood by.

Dr. Dor, along with her 10 brothers and sisters, lived in southern Sudan, a great target for Arab raiding parties from the wealthy Islamic settlement in northern Sudan. Her father was taken from their house, mutilated and stabbed numerous times. The soldiers would not let the family bury him.

Achol was very close to her father, and when he was killed, she felt as if a part of her had been killed with him. "The hate was killing me," she said, "until I began to really read the Bible." After she read it, she read it again, and again. She soon she discovered that she was happy. Forgiveness, though, was still out of the question.

One night, when she had a dream about her dad, she dreamed that her father came to her and told her to just let it go, to forgive and forget. He pointed out that no one will live forever. The next morning, when she opened her Bible, she prayed that Jesus would help her to forgive. "A wonderful feeling filled me," she said, "when I realized that I hadn't just forgiven them — I had begun to love them too!"

Dr. Achol Ayom Dor

Achol's life has not been an easy one. While in Greece, after fleeing her country, she was hospitalized due to back problems. As a poor mother without her husband nearby, she was unable to take care of her son, Alexander, who was then placed in foster care. She was not expected to walk, let alone live. But one day she heard God talking to her in a dream. He said a woman in a black dress would come to see her and on the third visit, Achol would be able to sit up. It came true.

In a few months Dr. Dor was up and walking. Doctors were amazed. When they asked her to come to a conference to give an explanation, she answered them, "There is no medication on earth that will make me walk." She knew trusting in God was the only thing that had make her well again.

Her advice to the students of TDCH was to return the love that "God has given you by loving others. Never hate anybody, because God does not hate us for what we have done to his son."

Marcella Knibbe is a Grade 10 student from Bradford, Ont.

Fit to be a missionary?

David deGroot

WOODBRIDGE, Ont. — Missionaries are often thrown into dangerous and traumatic experiences. They go from areas with big houses and small communities to places with small huts and big guns in a matter of days.

Along with culture shock and learning a new language, missionaries often have to deal with rape, assault, kidnapping and murder.

Glen Taylor, director of Counselling Services for the Missionary Health Institute, prepares missionaries for these situations and provides counselling following traumatic experiences.

Good missionaries must be able to handle stress. Mr. Taylor points out that the trauma for overseas missionaries has increased dramatically in the last 25 years.

He assesses the suitability of missionaries to handle themselves in high-intensity situations. When performing an assessment, Mr. Taylor looks for five key things:

*Missionaries should have firm beliefs and commitments. They must decide beforehand what they would do in intense situations.

*When under stress they must be able to reach out to other people for support and help, as opposed to isolating themselves.

*Missionary candidates must also demonstrate a positive view of life and themselves.

*They must let themselves experience a range of emotions, being able to weep when sad and become angry when furious. In fact, Mr. Taylor calls anger "one of God's best gifts."

*They must be physically fit. Stress preys on the weakest person. Some people experience lack of sleep, skin rashes, increased heart rates and pupil dilation.

An illustration of this is found in the story of the 12 spies sent out by Moses to scout out Canaan (See Numbers 13). Ten of the spies came back overwhelmed and scared. Caleb and Joshua, more fit for the cause, came back confident and uplifted that they could overcome the Canaanites.

Traumatic situations can either have a positive effect by making a person stronger and giving him or her a new purpose and meaning in life or a negative effect, making a person depressed and isolated. It all depends on how one appraises the situation.

David deGroot is a Grade 11 student from Toronto, Ont.

This page is sponsored by:

D&W Transportation

81 Orenda Road
Brampton, Ont.
L6N 1V7
(905) 459-3560

A time to listen . . .

From left to right: Rachael Weening, Vanessa Hurst and Tiffany Vanderburgh.

Genocide, torture, slaughter, orphans & rape

Hannajoy Forsyth/Gerda Kits

WOODBRIDGE, Ont. — Indifference. Every night on the news we hear the continuing saga of a broken world. The bleak picture is so familiar we tune it out. We're unmoved by suffering. We forget that the people we see have faces and names — that they are our own flesh and blood.

We like to believe that worldwide suffering is diminishing, that people are generally better off than they used to be. In fact, statistics show that for more than a hundred countries the situation is worse today than it was 15 years ago.

All people are entitled to basic human rights but 40 per cent of all humans are denied this justice. Included in the 40 per cent are the citizens of Sudan, where a recent UN report identifies 177 violations of human rights. At the top of the list: slavery. Raiders annihilate towns in the south of the country, slaughtering the men and taking women and children into slavery. Here, they face rape, torture, forced work, female circumcision and forced conversion to Islam. Masters may amputate the limbs of children who try to escape. This is not an illegal slave trade. This is the work of the Sudanese government itself.

We usually assume that the government represents the interests of the people; however, it is sometimes the government itself that instigates suffering. To the south of Sudan, in Rwanda, the former government embarked on a campaign to set the country's two main ethnic groups at war with each other. As a result, one million Hutus and Tutsis were slaughtered in a three-month span. Husbands even killed their own wives if they were not of the same tribe. Among the dead were 300,000 children and another 400,000 children lost their families. Sadly, cases like these are more common than we realize. Far too often, it is those who should be protecting the people who are launching the missiles.

But governments are not the only cause of suffering. Throughout time, people have suffered because of cultural or religious differences.

The Christian church is often the victim of the carnage. Christians in Ethiopia are thrown into prison and tortured, their churches are burned and they are banned from university. In Eastern Europe Christians may receive serious beatings or torture. In Sudan a group of pastors was thrown into a pit, covered in gasoline and burned alive.

"Peace camps" in the mountains offer everything people need to survive, including food, clean water, and clothing — but these are only available for those who renounce Christ and convert to Islam. Most Christians choose to walk away and starve in the desert.

The amount of suffering in the world is overwhelming. It's too easy to become indifferent to the horror surrounding us, too easy to shift responsibilities off our shoulders by asking God why he allows suffering. But we are all responsible for each other.

Why do *you* allow it?

Hannajoy Forsyth and Gerda Kits are Grade 12 students from Barrie and Richmond Hill, respectively.

How two 'rude kids' saw it

Bert Witvoet

WOODBRIDGE, Ont. — Mr. Groot sent two students to "the bench" on Thursday because they were showing in their behavior that they weren't interested in the workshop they were attending. The students acknowledged that it was their fault: "You warned us five times, Sir." They ended up writing out what they had learned so far.

One wrote: "On Wednesday I took a stress workshop, and I just thought it was amazing. I learned so much that in all my life I will never forget it. Being someone who is full of stress myself, it helped me understand what I was going through and how I could deal with it. I could have listened to him talk about it all morning.

"This morning (Thursday), I was very touched by those videos and by what that man was saying. It brought tears to my eyes. Just knowing that there are millions of people out in the world without money, clothes, food or anything. It just makes you wanna do all you can for them. I was thinking about sponsoring a child from World Vision or something.... I just want to know how that feels."

The other wrote: "Yesterday I learned about a man named Binora and the country he lived in. His dad was a sorcerer and had power from the demons. When someone became demon possessed, they would scream and throw themselves in the fire or jump into a well where they drown. It was terrifying for others to watch. A little girl died from a heart attack.

"I learned in a second workshop that you need a goal in life in order to get through the fire. It will be hard, but you'll make it. You should know your goal and stick to it. What is life? And you should be born again in Jesus Christ.... I think persecuted Christians have amazing faith."

The one signed his paper with "Bye" and the other with a smiley face. Goes to show you. You can't judge a book by its cover.

He used the word 'numb'

Robyn Konyndyk

The "Counting the Cost" conference, or one workshop in particular, changed me. It was a workshop held be Reverend Steve Brewer that talked about the missionary work he did in Mexico. It wasn't his stories that changed me, it was his description of what some Christians are like. He used the word "numb." One of the things he said was, "Realize how comfortably numb you've become." It hit me so hard. "That's me. This guy is describing my life."

I hadn't expected to feel this way. "They're just setting us up." That's what I thought before the conference. There were posters, announcements, assignments, all having to do with the big conference at my school. Everyone (teachers mostly) would not stop talking about how this conference would change our views, our lives, our*selves*. "I don't think any of you will come out of this conference the same," said one of my teachers. I wasn't going to expect that, because I knew if I did, I'd only be setting myself up for disappointment.

Who, in any part of the world today can say that they don't know that there is hunger? Who can say they've never heard stories about poverty? Who can say they don't know that people everywhere are suffering? No one. So why is it still a problem? We know but we don't let it sink in. We're numb and we like it that way. It's comfortable, like Rev. Brewer said. It's always just a little bit too dangerous to step outside of our comfort zones.

It can be very hard to get us to take that step. It's like when you hear a story from a newly converted Christian. They did it all — the drugs, the sex, the violence, and then God found them. They talk about how now they go spreading the word with a new joy in their heart.

This workshop showed me I can do a lot more than I originally thought. It inspired me, and the wonderful thing is, the inspiration is *still there*. I may take a while to find something to do with it, but I have it in me now, and that's certainly something I didn't expect.

Robyn Konyndyk is a Grade 11 student from Georgetown, Ont.

This page sponsored by: idomo FURNITURE
TORONTO 1100 Sheppard Ave. (416) 630-3622
MISSISSAUGA 1911 Dundas St. East (416) 625-0415
MONTREAL 9090 Cavendish (514) 735-6425

Society

Am I my neighbor's keeper on the highway?

John Tissot

In Genesis, after Cain had killed his brother Abel and God inquired where Abel was, Cain answered contemptuously, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Continuing that terrible tradition Cain started, many of us still don't want to admit that we are our brother's or sister's — or neighbor's — keeper. Out on that great River of Dander — the North American highway system — 50,000 men, women and children die every year. Out there we need brothers and sisters.

The TV program *48 Hours* once devoted a whole hour to what is happening on our ribbons of cement: road rage. Someone purposely cuts in front of you, too close — you get angry. Someone tailgates just to irritate you — and you respond in rage.

> "He sped on, passing over the crosswalk and through the intersection, leaving me full of frustration. I thought: 'No good deed goes unpunished.'"

Recently I was going down State Street in Santa Barbara, California. I stopped at a red light and planned to turn right when the light changed. As I edged my car around the corner, just when the front of my vehicle was about four feet into the crosswalk, a woman stepped down into the cross walk and started toward me. I decided to stop, giving this pedestrian the right of way.

When the woman had crossed in front of my car and was about to step up onto the curb, another woman carrying two shopping bags stepped down from the opposite curb into the crosswalk.

Should I gun my motor and get across the crosswalk before she was within range? Should I wait until she, too, had crossed from the far corner?

I waited.

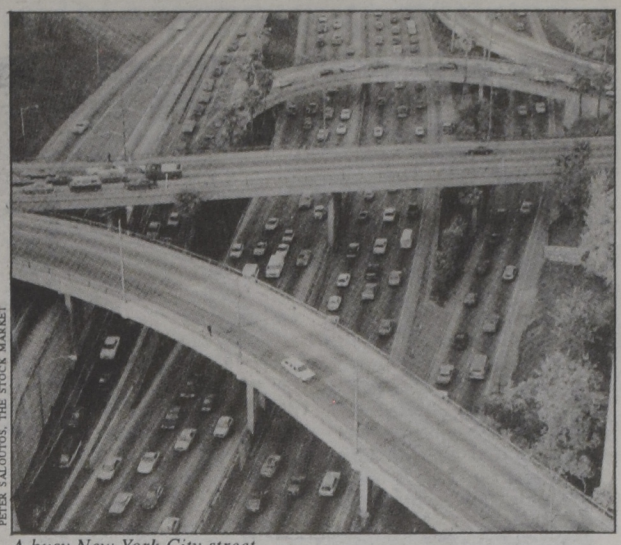
Swinging her shopping bags, the woman finally stepped up onto the curb. At this moment a car came along the street I was turning into, toward the intersection where I had stopped. The driver, a man, shouted at me, "You're parked in the crosswalk." He sped on, passing over the crosswalk and through the intersection, leaving me full of frustration.

I thought: "No good deed goes unpunished." Later, when I was calm again, I wondered if that man ever went to church. If so, did he leave its teachings behind when he drove his car out of his garage?

The glove compartment in my car is too crammed with all the papers we are required to carry to allow me to tuck in a Bible, even a small one. Some days, when traffic looks fierce, I imagine I have one in there. After all, we don't have to see Jesus to know he is with us, and I don't have to see a Bible to feel its comfort. But somehow I know I'll be more apt to turn the other cheek if some raging driver tries to provoke me.

The First Epistle of John tells us that a person who truly loves God cannot hate his or her neighbor. We need more true brothers and sisters out where the headlights and the taillights get too close.

John Tissot is a freelance writer who lives in Carpinteria, Calif.



PETER SALOUTOS, THE STOCK MARKET

A busy New York City street.

Oma's Great Children's Books Sale

A box full of 20 translated books by popular Dutch children's authors. Treat your grandchildren or perhaps even greatgrandchildren. Included is a WWI classic by W.G. Vandehulst about boys playing with a dinghy on a canal where they discover a young Belgian refugee boy and how they become friends (original title 'Peerke en zijn kameraden'). Best represented in this special offer is author Piet Prins with his spellbinding, hard-to-put-down books, including some titles on a boy's adventures during World War II. And there's still more to enjoy, also for others who grew up with these stories in the Dutch language and just like to re-read them in English. Also represented is well-known Dutch-American author Meindert DeJong. **ENJOY!**

Great reading by Christian authors.

A great opportunity to stock up on books to give as presents anytime.

Book Store inquiries welcome. You don't need to be an 'Oma' to take advantage of this Great Offer.

PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW BY CALLING

1-800-881-0705

Suppliers of Premier Inheritance ILPB Paideia titles

VANDERHEIDE PUBLISHING CO. LTD.
phone: (604) 532-1733
fax: (604) 532-1734
Canada: P.O. Bag 9033, Surrey, BC V3T 4X3
USA: P.O. Box 313, Lynden, WA 98264-0313
email: windmill@pro.net
website: http://www.godutch.com

GREAT CHILDREN'S BOOK SALE
Retail value over Can$150.00/US$120.00
Oma's price
Can$99.99
US$79.99
Postage & handling Can$5.00/US$4.00
Add GST & HST in Canada

Environment

Christian environmental professionals to meet in Ontario

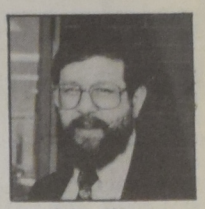
CC Staff

ANCASTER, Ont. — If you are an environmental professional living in the southwestern Ontario/Toronto/Niagara region you're invited to join the Ad Hoc Meeting of Christian Environmental Professionals in Ontario on Friday, November 13. This dinner meeting in Ancaster will be co-hosted by Dr. Henry Brouwer of Redeemer College in Ancaster, Ont., Henry Hengeveld of Environment Canada and Dr. John Wood of The King's University College in Edmonton.

This meeting will be a follow-up to the "Caring for Creation: Faith and the Environmental Professional" conference held in Edmonton last May. The group will discuss what Christians are doing in the environmental sector and will view the video "Keeping the Earth."

Anyone interested in attending this evening meeting should contact Dr. Henry Brouwer at Redeemer College, e-mail: brouwer@redeemer.on.ca; or call (905)648-2131 or fax (905) 648-2134.

Stewardship: playing a new tune



John Wood

The headline reads like a weight loss campaign. "Natural World Shrank by 30%!"

Wow! Amazing, but true. We have seemingly put the natural world on a crash diet of environmental reductions. Or so the Worldwide Fund for Nature says in its just released report of the *Living Planet Index*.

The world's forest, freshwater and marine ecosystems have deteriorated by almost one third since 1970 and the beginning of the modern environmental movement. This is the latest in a long string of warning signals that have been sounded about the impact that our modern economic machine is having on the natural world. But is anyone listening? And if we are listening, do we think that things should change? And, if they should, what should be done?

I think that we Christians are uniquely situated to speak to these questions, if we will.

The ripples are widening

I spend a good deal of time scanning the professional scientific literature on environmental and conservation issues. I've noticed several things over the past three or four years. The topics of discussion have shifted away from narrow specialty considerations to what we educators would call "liberal arts" topics. There is a good deal of ink given to economics, public policy considerations and to historical and literary analysis.

A few lines will give you a taste. In an opinion piece in the journal *Science* called "The Challenge of Faust," we find these opening words:

"In Part II of his greatest play, *Faust* (1832), Goethe confronts the promises and pitfalls of the Industrial Revolution and the economic growth that generated it."

Then in a recent policy forum in another journal, *BioScience*, Rita Colwell, the first woman to head the prestigious National Science Foundation, cites Samuel Taylor Coleridge's "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner." She goes on to recommend a social philosopher who "is critical of our lack of attention historically to our values and our vision as a society."

This list could be extended a great deal. What is going on here?

Economists are now making a point that professional ecologists have been harping on for years. The natural world simply will not withstand the levels of alteration we are applying to it. There are simply limits to nature and nature's capacity to change.

This doesn't mean there will necessarily be some catastrophic event. Rather, the earth will continue to signal its limits. We can, if we choose, keep on moving to another level of distortion and destruction. But we shouldn't kid ourselves that the old bounty of the earth will soon return.

Old story or new?

Up to here I have been making an old point. One that has been widely debated in both the popular and technical press. But what is remarkable, recently, is that there seems to be a consensus coming among some very distant players in this debate.

On every side I am seeing a similar call. We can no longer rely on technological fixes, whether those be engineering or economic, or even policy-based.

What people are calling for is a new relationship to the earth. In short, a new environmental ethic. And here is where Christians and the church, if we choose — and we *must* choose to — can have a real voice.

In journal after journal I see the call for a new ethic. A fisheries ethic, environmental ethic, engineering ethic, conservation ethic, soil ethic, agricultural ethic, human genome ethic, cloning ethic, technological ethic; it goes on and on.

What is now widely being acknowledged is that we moderns are "at sea." Our tools and abilities have outrun our ethical basis for guiding decisions.

We no longer have an anchor, a common base from which to make shared decisions. The result is policy confusion, resource conflict and the destruction of local, regional and even national economies. The problems we face are bigger than our ideas. And we're running out of time.

John R. Wood teaches environmental science at The King's University College in Edmonton.

Voortman

Over 40 Varieties of Fine Cookies

Meyer, Wassenaar & Banach
Barristers & Solicitors
Royal Bank Bldg., 5001 Yonge St., #301, North York, ON M2N 6P6
Telephone (416) 223-9191
Willem J.B. Meyer, Q.C. *Sy L. Wassenaar, Q.C.*
Martin Banach, LL.B.

HOLLAND AMERICA CRUISES
50% off
TRANS ATLANTIC/BIG BAND
PANAMA CANAL — HOLIDAY CRUISES
ORIENT — CARIBBEAN
VALENTINE TRAVEL
(905) 890-5333/Toll Free 1-800-268-6144
London (519) 472-2700/Toll Free 1-800-265-1141
St. Catharines (905) 935-9103

Chalk one up

• Diligence by government, industry and individuals has virtually eliminated lead from the air in urban areas. Lead had been a serious air pollutant until joint action at all levels found ways to eliminate or reduce lead in a host of common products such as gasoline. Millennium Eco-Communities, promoted by Environment Canada, is targeting other key areas to give Canadians cleaner water and air, reduce the impacts of climate change, and protect nature.

• The North American Waterfowl Management Plan has protected 672,000 hectares of wetlands for migratory waterfowl and other wetland-dependent wildlife. The St. Lawrence River Action Plan protected 12,000 hectares of wildlife habitat and the Fraser River (B.C.) Action Plan protected about 65,000 hectares of wild bird habitat.

• In the last three years, 45 parcels of land have been donated for the public good by Canadians.

- News Canada

ENVIROtips...

(NC)—Landfills release methane gas as their contents decompose, contributing to greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and climate change. Throwing away less—and composting and recycling more—helps reduce this threat to the environment.

Comment

'East or West, home is best'?

Two under 35

Peter Schuurman **Elizabeth Salomons**

Dear Peter,

Greetings from Vancouver! After three months of living out of a backpack I'm now sitting in front of my own computer, at my own desk, in my own apartment. Sure feels good — although it does feel a little weird to be in Vancouver once again.

They say you can never go home again — something I've learned from personal experience many times over — and the city I left 10 years ago is far different from the one I've chosen to now call home. (Not to mention that *I've* changed.)

But, having said that, I am *so* glad to be back West once again. I could probably write a book on the difference between West and East in Canada. But for now, I'll just say I find it similar to the difference between male and female. It's just as profound and, ultimately, the one will never completely understand the other.

Don't get me wrong. I had a great time in Toronto and I really think it's a fabulous place to live. It wasn't easy to leave; and that's probably why my presumed one-year Toronto fling ended up lasting a decade instead.

But my Toronto friends never really understood my insistence that I was a Westerner, and I'm not totally sure they understood why I needed to come back.

▫ ▫ ▫

Dear Elizabeth:

I've heard other people say the same thing — that being a "Westerner" is different. How? I grew up around the Finch Station subway, and I have a feeling that I'm somewhat "Toronto-centric." I'm not sure exactly what that means, except that it infuriates those who grace either side of Southern Ontario.

Which one is male? Which one is female? :-)

▫ ▫ ▫

Oh dear. Look what I've started. Well, it's pretty obvious, isn't it? The West is female because it's usually ignored by Central Canada until it starts screaming, and then, it's nearly always misunderstood. Central Canada is male because it wonders why everybody else doesn't see things its way, especially when it's always right.

▫ ▫ ▫

Good one. I set you up for that! Though I hope you wouldn't call the way each sees things "irreconcilable differences," because if so, there's not much hope for Canada, or the human race, for that matter.

Isn't it typical of any relationship that problems start when each partner turns inward and becomes protective of him- or herself and his or her own needs, vulnerabilities?

What baffles me is that we uphold an economic system that celebrates self-interest as the primary "virtue." But in real life, nobody wins when it's "every *man* for himself." When you're dating, it's called selfishness. When you're a country, they call it "regionalism."

▫ ▫ ▫

There you go. My point exactly. Central Canadians will never get it — it isn't selfishness, it *is* regionalism.

▫ ▫ ▫

Well, I must confess that there was a little voice inside me that wanted to say: "Central Canada, being caught in the middle of East and West, and being the home of the federal government, is in the position of trying to balance the needs of the whole nation. Westerners, like Quebeckers, only look out for their own interests, and lose sight of the bigger picture."

But I shut that voice down, because I know Central Canada is by no means so charitable and communitarian. We do tend to see regionalism as someone else's problem, and try to subsume both East and West under the Ontario umbrella and call it Canada.

▫ ▫ ▫

So you don't really need me to enlighten you, Peter. You do understand. The thing is, one of the many reasons I first moved to Toronto was to see if it really was as arrogant a city as the rest of the country made it out to be. And there were many times when I bit my tongue because people would make terribly ignorant comments about the West, assuming that if something's done this way in Toronto, it must be the same all over Canada.

But here's a telling remark made to me by a native Vancouverite when she found out I had just moved here from Toronto. She told me I had moved to the only city in Canada with more attitude than Toronto. I laughed: it's true. Toronto may be patronizing and overbearing and think the little concerns of the rest of the country are just that — little — but it also doesn't reveal its insecurities with a need to prove itself. It just is.

This past summer in Europe, I was just a Canadian. My dad and I spent four days in Normandy where the restaurants have signs that read "Welcome to our Liberators" and the Canadian flag flies prominently among the other Allied flags displayed up and down the village streets. Our regional tiffs seem a little silly, and our fears about cultural identity appear unwarranted when one travels through a country where the land still shows physical evidence of the ravages of war.

▫ ▫ ▫

I take it you're hinting that Vancouver is no holy city, either. At least it doesn't have a massive Babel-like structure at its centre to declare its hubris to the world. Steeples used to be the tallest thing in town.

With regards to your last remark, there's nothing like a little distance to give you some perspective. I'm proud to be Canadian when I'm overseas, too. I must confess (again) however, that sometimes what that means is that I'm proud not to be American. I feel *safer* being a Canadian. But that's another story.

Should we give the West the last word?

▫ ▫ ▫

Always! You're right, I never feel more Canadian than when I'm out of the country, and living in Toronto made me more passionate about the West than I ever thought possible. But was this only to prove to everybody I wasn't a Torontonian? (By the way, did I happen to mention I'm American by birth? What does *that* do to my Canadian identity?)

From the Wet Coast,
Elizabeth

Elizabeth Salomons is a freelance writer who lives in Vancouver. Peter Schuurman is the Christian Reformed Church's chaplain at Brock University. He's a member of Jubilee CRC in St. Catharines.

Two weeks that were

Bert Hielema

I HAVE A BUILT-IN disadvantage in my column: what was news two weeks ago when I e-mailed it to the editor may no longer be current at time of publication. An example: Andy Scott — still remember him? Just in case you don't, he's the Solicitor General in Ottawa who talked a mile a minute on a plane, discussing matters of state secrecy and was overheard by an Opposition MP. If Andy Scott's middle name is Simon — and it must be — he has the most appropriate initials.

His particular merit was that when the APEC Peppergate was just a bit ajar, he, with his loose tongue, threw it open with such a bang that the entire House shook. It was also appropriate that a man by the name of Proctor acted as a proctor, watched over him and recorded his insecure verbosity.

BILL CLINTON WILL remain in the news for a while: the ongoing saga of Bible-clutching Bill Clinton being clobbered in Congress is the constant topic on TV (which I know from having read that, not from watching it all). Clinton has now, he says, placed the fate of his presidency in the hands of God.

When I watch the lies and evasions and downright fraud perpetuated by so many politicians, it makes me wonder whether a Christian can ever be part of such an enterprise. Are all politicians crooks, or at least self-absorbed creatures?

It makes me throw up my hands in despair to see our world hover on the brink of disaster with a failing economy, a monetary crisis not seen since the 1930s, with Saddam and Slobodan taunting the West through lack of concerted leadership, while Clinton and Chretien ignore the turmoil created by their unethical behavior. They are small men, I think, not worthy of the offices they have come to occupy by hook and crook.

IF YOU'RE LOOKING for work, check out the CIA Web site: **www.odci.gov/cia**. I've done it for you, and this is what I found under the heading: "Clandestine Service Trainee." I think it's just right for many a typical CC reader because among such individuals are, I'm sure, "extraordinary individuals who want more than a job: a way of life that will challenge the deepest resources of your intelligence, self-reliance and responsibility."

Here is your job description. "You will need to deal with fast-moving, ambiguous and unstructured situations that will test your resourcefulness to the utmost." Looks to me like the typical job description for a church minister.

WHILE ON employment opportunities, here is another one perfectly suitable for many of our readers (and if you have a Dutch name, that may even be an asset here). One of the fastest-growing businesses in North America is as low-tech and local as they come: domestic services. Ever more people (so reports *The Economist*) pay others to do their housework, look after children and pets, or even do their shopping.

Sears Canada has just started such a service and expects to cash in on this trend, which, I presume, will continue as long as the economy booms.

In a sense we are going back a hundred years. Before World War I when the rich and even the not-so-rich, employed cooks, butlers, housekeepers and coachmen, domestic service counted for more than 16 per cent of all jobs. Vacuum cleaners and washing machines and later microwave ovens and fridges replaced almost all of these jobs. But still: if housework were counted into the Gross Domestic Product it would come to the equivalent of 50 per cent of the GDP. And that's just too much for all these higher paid professional women who are working longer hours and doing less and less unpaid hours of work at home. So why not hire a company to do that, or a reliable person? Not all domestic services are low-paid, either. In some places in the U.S. a "household manager" can earn over $100,000 a year. And in some places a nanny can command a salary of $40,000 — plus care and accommodation. Computers can do a lot of things, but not look after children, or landscape a garden, or produce a delicious meal.

So if you can't find a job at the CIA cooking up plots, perhaps dealing with cooking pots and little tots might be your cup of tea.

YOU MUST HAVE HEARD of Alan Greenspan. He, as the chair of the Federal Reserve Bank in Washington, is the man who speaks the last word on interest rates and calls the shots in the global financial world. Lately these shots have been controversial.

A bit of background: each country has its very own bank which controls that country's money supply and sets its interests rates. Thus the Bank of Canada does it here, in England the Bank of England answers, and has just lowered its interest rates; in the Netherlands it's the Nederlandse Bank, soon to disappear when Europe gets its own Bank of Europe. (The Bank of Europe will have a Dutchman at the helm and on Jan. 1, 1999, will issue its own currency, the Euro.)

In order to straighten out the economic mess the world has found itself in almost overnight, Alan Greenspan has lowered interest rates by 0.25 per cent. The New York Stock market found this too little, too late, and promptly dropped close to 200 points.

Why lower interest rates? Because of Russia. And what did Russia do? It caused the fall of long-Term Capital Management.

A few months ago I briefly mentioned a book with the scary title *Apocalypse Roulette: the Lethal World of Derivatives.* The author of this book, a former banker, wrote: "Derivatives have turned the financial markets into a high-tech, international, 24 hour casino."

WELL, THAT IS exactly what happened: a bunch of smart fellows (two of them with a Nobel prize in economics on their resumes) figured that they could get rich quick, based on some very complicated math — which, after all, had earned them the most coveted award in the world, plus a million dollars.

Based on their reputation, they recruited some 200 wealthy people to contribute a minimum of $10 million each, and called their investment club "Long-Term Capital Management." Derivatives are so complicated that most banks' bean-counters don't know beans about them; and since this group had more IQ in its small office than entire head offices of most banks, the banks' lenders implicitly trusted all these brainy PhDs, loaning them billions of dollars to play with, and relying on their very own supposedly fool-proof software.

With only $3.5 billion of clients' money the group managed to borrow a total of $120 billion, and perhaps more, from 15 banks.

Their economic models indicated that there was only one-in-100 chance of suffering a loss of 20 per cent or more. And these rich people did well. In spite of steep fees, investors made 43 per cent in 1995, 41 per cent in 1996, and 17 per cent in 1997.

Then came August 1998: terrible, terrible August. Once again the Guns of August were out; this time they completely flattened the fund when Russia devalued its currency and the world's investors fled to the safety of U.S. treasury bills, sharply lowering Long-Term Capital Management's yield, much below its computer-indicated minimum. That month it lost 40 per cent of its value, a huge loss considering that most of it was borrowed money. Because of all these dubious loans, 15 banks were at the edge of bankruptcy.

That's when Alan Greenspan was alerted and sprang into action, because the liquidation of these billions would sink the bonds and cause a world wide financial crisis. He forced the 15 banks to put an extra $300 million each in the pot to save the world from financial ruin.

Perhaps. Result: suddenly all banks are loath to loan to even good customers because nobody knows how many other so-called Hedge funds are losing money in this volatile market.

SPEAKING OF MONEY: making money has never been easier. Computer counterfeiting of money shot up close to 50 per cent in the first eight months of this year. With images of all the world's major currencies readily available on the Internet, and with color copiers and scanners capable of making near-perfect images, creating your own little money-making machine has governments all over the world worried.

Well, I have my own no-money machine: my garden. I am writing this on Thanksgiving Day. This summer and fall have been pure paradise for growth. In our root cellar we have lots of potatoes, plenty of onions, garlic for a year, a big crop of carrots (enough to daily make carrot juice); and in our freezer (kept cool with solar power) beans, beets, leeks, kale, raspberries and applesauce. Who needs money with such blessings?

Bert Hielema lives in Tweed, Ont. His latest new job is clerk of session of the St. Andrew's Prebyterian Church in Tweed.

HS Limited

Harry Snoek Limited

Real Estate Development & Investment

3 Bayview Forest Lane
Thornhill, Ontario L3T 7S4
Tel.: (905) 889-5300

Harry Snoek Limited has forty years of success in real estate investment and development. Over the years many have joined us, by directly participating in land investments. We invite you to join as well.

7.75%

To diversify our borrowing and to expand investment participation we pay very attractive interest rates, currently 7.75% Call us for details about lending or investing. Your money is secure with us.

Classifieds

Classified Rates

(Revised February 1, 1995)

Births	$25.00
Marriages & Engagements	$40.00
Anniversaries	$45.00
2-column anniversaries	$90.00
Obituaries	$45.00
Notes of thanks	$35.00
Birthdays	$40.00

All other one-column classified advertisements: $15.00 per column inch. NOTE: Minimum fee is $15.00. Letter under file number $35.00 extra. Photos: $25.00 additional charge.

Note: All rates shown above are GST inclusive

ATTENTION!

a) *Christian Courier* reserves the right to print classifieds using our usual format.,

b) A sheet with information about an obituary sent by funeral homes is *not* acceptable since it leads to errors and confusion.

c) Photographs sent by fax *are not* acceptable. If you wish a photo included, send us the original.

d) *Christian Courier* will not be responsible for any errors due to handwritten or phoned-in advertisements.

e) The rate shown above for classifieds covers any length up to five column inches. *Christian Courier* reserves the right to charge for additional column inches at the rate of $15.00 per column inch (GST incl.).

NEWLYWEDS & NEW PARENTS

We offer a one-year subscription for only $25.00 (GST incl.) to the couples whose wedding is announced in the *Christian Courier* and to the parents of the child whose birth announcement appears in our paper. To facilitate matters, we encourage those who request the wedding or birth announcement to enclose $25.00 and the couple's correct address.

Christian Courier
4-261 Martindale Rd.
St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1
Phone: (905) 682-8311
Fax: (905) 682-8313

Our new e-mail address:
ccadpromo@aol.com

For Sale

For Sale: Three cemetery plots. $1,500 for all three. Near Toronto International Airport.
Call **(705) 725-9016.**

For Sale in Florida. Very nice and clean Park Model. Near Cypress Gardens on Hwy. 27. Will sell very reasonable. If interested call **(905) 957-7311.**

Birthdays

GEERTS:

Congratulations to George Geerts his 80th birthday!

Happy 80th birthday.
GEORGE (GEERT) GEERTS
Nov. 9, 1918

An open house will be held at Wellingstone Christian Home, 1415 lingstone Christian Home, 1415 Upper Wellington Street, Hamilton, Ont. on **Nov. 7, 1998**, from 2 - 4 p.m. his birthday. Best wishes only please.

Anniversaries

1958 1998

With gratitude to God we acknowledge his faithfulness in the lives of our parents

PETER and JANE SIKMA
(VAN HUIZEN)

who will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary, Oct. 25, 1998, in Israel, D.V.

Congratulations, Dad and Mom, Pake and Beppe!

Love,
George & Sue Sikma — Orono, Ont.
Stephen, Kimberly, Scott
Julia & Rick Koopmans — Guelph, Ont.
Aimee, Jordan, Laurel, Erica
Yolanda & Mitch Vanden Berg — Lindsay, Ont.
Joshua, Matthew, Rebecca, Rachel
Tim Sikma — Newcastle, Ont.
Grace & James Pot — Red Deer, Alta.
Howard & Arlene Sikma — Newcastle, Ont.
Connor, Brent
Joyce & Andy Van Brunnessen — Orono, Ont.
Daniel, Emma

Address: 25 Winter Rd., Orono, ON L0B 1M0

Personal

Female, 71, would like to meet Christian gentleman to share and enjoy each other's company. Love the outdoors and nature. Fraser Valley area, B.C. Please send letters to **File #2685, c/o Christian Courier, 4-261 Martindale Rd., St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1**

ONE TO ANOTHER
Christian companion magazine.
Hundreds of readers Canada-wide.
Single issue $5.
Write to:
#12 923 2nd Ave. S.
Lethbridge, AB T1J 0C7

Birthdays

VELD:

Congratulations to Grietje Veld on her 85th birthday!

GRIETJE (MARGARET) VELD

It is with great joy, and thankfulness to God, that we announce our mother's 85th birthday. The Lord has blessed us with a wonderful mom, and it is our sincere prayer He will continue to care for her, so we can enjoy her for many more years.

Her thankful children:
Ralph & Helen Veld — York, Ont.
Ben & Elly Veld — Burgessville, Ont.
Gerrit & Rosina Veld — Welland, Ont.
Jane & Pete Van Duyvenvoorde — Beamsville, Ont.
Henry & Marg Veld — Fonthill, Ont.
Marg & Bert Kikkert — Grassie, Ont.

She has been blessed with 22 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

We are planning an open house for our Mom on Sunday, Nov. 1, 1998, from 1-3 p.m., at Grace Chr. Ref. Church, 660 South Pelham St., Welland, Ont.

Mom's address is: 658 South Pelham St., Unit C, Welland, ON L3C 3C8

All praise be to God.

Obituaries

Firtgum, Fr. Whitby, Ont.

EELKE RYPSTRA
March 19, 1920 - Oct. 3, 1998

"If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord" (Rom. 14:8).

It is with sadness, yet with joy that our beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather went to be with his Lord Jesus after his struggle with cancer. His testimony was "I belong to Jesus" and that was a great comfort to his family.

Beloved husband of Akke (Tjalsma) Rypstra.

Loved by his children and their families:
Wilma & Herman Slot — Ajax
Michelle & Gord (Mickenzie, Gavin, Darrien), Kimberly, Tanya, Jessica
Obie & Ria Rypstra — St. Anns
Joel, Jonathan, Nathan, Becky, David
William & Wilma Rypstra — Georgetown
Kevin, Shannon, Shaylyn
Trudy & Wade Coburn — Bowmanville
Matthew
Annette & Peter Hamilton — Oshawa
Geoffrey, Alicia, Laura, Graham
Fred & Michelle Rypstra — Whitby
Stephen, Ryan, Erin
David Rypstra — Bowmanville

Also survived by three sisters in the Netherlands and his brother, Fouke and Griet Rypstra, Newtonville, nephews and families.

Correspondence address:
Mrs. E. Rypstra, 208 - 100 Glenhill Drive S., Whitby, ON L1N 8R4

Warmond Calgary
Nov. 27, 1916 - Sept. 28, 1998

"My help comes from the Lord" (Ps.121).

On Monday, Sept. 28, 1998, our beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

JAANTJE VAN DER BURGH
(HEEREMA)
(nee VAN DER HEIJDEN)

was taken home to be with the Lord. Jaantje (Sjaan) was predeceased by her first husband Allert Heerema in 1980. Jaantje will be lovingly missed by her husband Leo van der Burgh and her family:
Johanna & Tom de Boer — Calgary
Susan & Jay, Shelley
Jack & Carol Heerema — Calgary
Allen
Sjaanie Heerema — Rimbey
Robin (Brandon)
Pieter & Trudy Heerema — Welland
Aaron, Cobus, Anna

The funeral took place in Maranatha Chr. Ref. Church, Calgary, Alta., on Oct. 1, 1998.

Correspondence address:
P.A. Heerema, 122 Pinehurst Drive, Welland, ON L3C 3J1

Obituaries

Emmen, Dr. Brampton
the Neth. Ont.
June 15, 1916 - Sept. 28, 1998

DIRK WESSELING

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Ps. 27:1).

On Sept. 28, 1998, the Lord called to glory his child Dirk, who died in his 83rd year at Sunny Brook Health Sciences Centre, Toronto, a few weeks following heart valve surgery.

Loving husband of Henderika (Moes) for just two months short of 60 years.

Dear father of:
Christine & Martin Herrewynen — Burlington
Jane & Paul Herrewynen — Simcoe
Ralph (and the late Bonnie) — Georgia
Connie & Chris Snoek — Kanata
Alice & Bob Van Wingerden — Burlington
Henry — Delhi
Diane & Harv Geerlinks — Georgetown

Loving opa of 27 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. Brother of Annie Sanders of the Netherlands. Predeceased by two brothers and two sisters.

The funeral service was held in the Immanuel Chr. Ref. Church, Simcoe, Ont., on Thursday, Oct. 1, 1998, Rev. Herman Praamsma officiating.

Correspondence address:
Henderika Wesseling, Holland Christian Homes, 7900 McLaughlin Rd. S., HT712, Brampton, ON L6Y 5A7

Job Opportunities

PASTOR

Houston Chr. Ref. Church in beautiful northwest British Columbia is seeking a **full-time pastor** to provide sound biblical preaching, ministry to youth and pastoral care. The church membership stands at 67 families; which translates into 169 professing members and 154 non-professing or baptized members. Please send a copy of your profile. A church profile is available upon request. For more information please contact:

Rick Delau, Search Committee
Houston Chr. Ref. Church
Box 6, Houston, BC V0J 1Z0
Phone: (250) 845-7756
Fax: (250) 845-7578

I would like an **energetic person to work in meat processing plant in the Cambridge area.** Must be able to do lifting e.g. to work in shipping and packaging department, along with other duties.

Call (519) 621-6829

Classifieds

For Rent

For Rent: Mississauga, Ont., spacious one bedroom basement apartment, newly renovated. $700/month, incl. utilities, parking, fireplace, appliances, separate entrance. Non-smoking, no pets. Contact Glenn or Michelle Van Zeumeren at
(905) 814-7770.

For Sale

For Sale: JOHANNUS Sweelinck III Organ. 3-Man., 32-note AGO pedal, 52-stops etc. Dealer demo. Full warranty. Suitable for church or home. Ext. channels available.
Call (519) 688-3540.

Teachers

LANGLEY, B.C.: Langley Christian High School requires a full-time **Learning Assistance/Special Education Teacher,** commencing January 4, 1999.
Qualified applicants forward resume, references and statement of educational philosophy to:
Peter Van Huizen, Principal, 22702 - 48 Ave., Langley, BC V2Z 2T6; phone (604) 533-0839, fax (604) 533-0842.

SARNIA, Ont.: Lambton Chr. High School invites applications for a **French position**. The position is to fill a maternity leave for the second semester from Feb. 8 through June and consists of teaching French to **grades 8, 9 and 10.** Please direct inquiries and applications, including resume, university or college transcripts, and statement of faith and educational philosophy to:
W. Drost
295 Essex Street
Sarnia, ON N7T 4S3
Phone: (519)337-9122
Fax: (519) 337-2541

WOODBRIDGE, Ont.: Toronto District Chr. High School requires an additional full-time teacher for second semester. Needed is a teacher for **Grade 9** courses (**science, English, geography**). Please send resume, credentials and statement of faith to:
Ren Siebenga
c/o Toronto District Chr. High School
377 Woodbridge Avenue
Woodbridge, ON L4L 2S8
e-mail: rsiebeng@tdchristian.on.ca

Job Opportunities

SEEKING A PASTOR

Faith Christian Reformed Church in **Burlington, Ont.** is a young, dynamic fellowship of 67 families (323 individuals) committed to achieving God's purpose.
We are seeking an enthusiastic Pastor who will lead and equip us to serve Christ. Please send a letter of interest to the **Search Committee, c/o Mr. Hans Kloet, 1568 Frontenac Pl., Burlington, ON L7P 1M6, (905) 336-7184**

EH JJ SHOW
Christian TV Entertainment

Times: Vision TV Cable Network
Thursday mornings
6:30 a.m. ET & PT
7:30 a.m. MT & AT
Also CJIL-TV (The Miracle Channel) Lethbridge, Alberta
9:30 a.m. and a repeat in evening
Sponsored by Voortman Cookies
Web page: www.ehjjshow.com

CLINTON, ONTARIO
ADULT LIFE LEASE RESIDENCES
available 936 sq.ft. to 1235 sq.ft. Fully wheelchair accessible, sprinkler system, central air, security throughout building. Dutch and English spoken. For more info. call **(519) 233-7296 or (519) 482-7862.**

Celebrating 23 years of service.

The CCEF supports the cost of developing Christian textbooks for your local school.

Your financial support will help us in our publishing program. Your gifts are tax deductible.

CANADIAN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION INC.

Fred R. Vander Velde
Executive Director

2621 Cavendish Drive
Burlington, ON L7P 3W6
Phone: (905) 336-5619
Fax: (905) 336-2376
day or evening.

Miscellaneous

CONCERT ORGANIST & ORGAN CONSULTANT

available to advise on the purchasing of new Pipe or Electronic Organs for Church or Home, and on the rebuilding of existing Pipe Organs.

For more information contact:
Dr. John van der Tuin,
A.R.C.T., A. Mus., B. Mus., M. Mus., D.M.A.
8 Olivetree Road, Apt. 503,
Brantford, ON N3R 5Z2
Tel: (519) 752-5498
Fax: (519) 759-0933

SHARE THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS 1998

Business Community/ Christian Organizations

Include your Christmas message in our special 1998 Christmas Issue

As in years past, Christian Courier will launch the holiday season with a special Christmas Issue. As usual, this issue will provide an opportunity for our advertisers to communicate their holiday wishes to our readers. Also as usual, we plan to distribute an additional 20,000 complimentary copies of this issue to churches across Canada.

Printing this many additional copies incurs additional costs. So we are offering you an opportunity to interact in a special way with your friends and supporters across North America. At the same time this "Christmas Greeting" program enables us to reach many Reformed Christians with a Christmas present of joy, insight, and celebration.

Your participation in the "Christmas Greeting" program is a gift to yourself, to us, and to our community. Don't miss this opportunity. Just return the attached coupon as soon as possible.

The date of this special issue will be **December 4.** It will be mailed to regular subscribers on December 1. Wednesday, **November 18**, is the deadline for booking space and submitting copy.

To: Christian Courier
4-261 Martindale Rd., St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1
Phone: (905) 682-8311 Fax: (905) 682-8313

Ad Size	Width	Length	Cost	(plus 7% GST)
□ 1/16 page (horizontal)	5"	1 ½"	$100.00	$107.00
□ 1/16 page (vertical)	2 ½"	3"	100.00	107.00
□ 1/8 page	5"	3"	175.00	187.25
□ 1/4 page	5"	6"	325.00	347.75
□ ½ page	10"	6"	600.00	642.00
□ Full page	10"	12"	1000.00	1070.00

I do not wish to place my own ad, but will gladly sponsor a Christian organization advertisement. I understand Christian Courier will obtain copy from the organization indicated. I wish to sponsor and ad
*for*_____
Size: □ 1/16 □ 1/8 □ 1/4 □ 1/2 □ Full page

Payment:
□ I enclose payment. □ Please bill me.
Sender: (please print)
Name _____
Address _____
City and Province _____ Code _____
Phone number _____

Classifieds

CALVIN College

Theological Librarian

The Hekman Library of Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary (Christian Reformed Church in North America) invites inquiries and applications for the position of **Theological Librarian**. The Theological collection is housed in the Hekman Library, which serves both institutions. The Theological Librarian will have faculty appointment at the Seminary and will be an administrative faculty member of the Hekman Library staff.

Responsibilities include overall responsibility for the theological division; collection development in theology; reference service, including designated times at the general information desk; planning for future development of the Theological Division; bibliographic instruction utilizing print and online resources.

Minimum credentials are an MLS and a Masters degree in theology/religion from accredited programs; experience in an academic or theological library; demonstrated commitment to teaching and to the integration of computer technology in libraries.

Send a cover letter, resume and the names, addresses, and e-mail addresses of at least three references to **Human Resources, Calvin College and Theological Seminary, 3201 Burton SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546 or fax to (616) 957-6532.** Selection of candidates will begin after Nov. 30, but applications will be accepted after that date.

THE KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
Christian University Education

Planned Giving Officer

The King's University College is an independent degree-granting Christian university college raising significant annual private donations. To secure the financial future of the institution, there is an immediate opening for a Planned Giving Officer.

You will be responsible for the development and implementation of a planned giving program for the College. Key areas of responsibility include identifying and developing relationships with major donors, foundations and corporations; co-ordinating the planned giving program with other college fund raising initiatives; assisting with the establishment of policies and procedures for planned giving; promoting and marketing of the various planned giving instruments among the College supporters.

Reporting to the Director of Development, the ideal candidate will have a university degree or equivalent professional designation and a minimum of three years experience in planned giving or a related field such as major gift fund raising, law, accounting, trust administration, life insurance or financial planning. Familiarity with planned giving instruments and related tax laws is preferred.

The successful applicant must assent to the College's Statement of Faith. He/she will be a self-starter with strong written and verbal communication skills. Considerable travel is required. Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications. Excellent benefits package available.

Please submit your resume to:
Ms. Coby Benoit, Director of Development
The King's University College
9125 - 50 Street. Edmonton, AB T6B 2H3
Phone: (403) 465-8311; Fax: (403) 465-3534
E-mail: cbenoit@kingsu.ab.ca

CALVIN College

Faculty Positions

The Calvin College Education Department seeks candidates for a tenure-track position (subject to approval) which primarily involves teaching Educational Psychology and Introduction to Teaching from a middle school perspective and elementary and middle school Social Studies Curriculum and Methods.

Qualifications include: 1) an earned doctorate (or ABD) in educational psychology and/or curriculum and introduction; 2) K - 12 teaching and/or administration experience; 3) a scholarship agenda; and 4) commitment to a Reformed Christian expression of faith.

Calvin College is a Christian college within the Reformed tradition of historic Christianity and is an equal opportunity employer. The college encourages the application of women and minority candidates. Interested applicants should forward a letter stating qualifications and curriculum vitae to:
Dr. L. Stegink, Department Chair, Education Department, Calvin College, 3201 Burton, S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49546, by Nov. 1, 1998, or until the position is filled.

Interested in placing an ad.
Contact us for details.
Phone: 682-8311
E-mail: ccadpromo@aol.com

Church Leadership Specialist

The **Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA)** has an opening for **Church Leadership Specialist in the Established Church Development Department of Christian Reformed Home Missions**. Responsibilities include church development consultation, leadership and program development, and on-going evaluation of existing outreach ministries. The qualified individual must have demonstrated success in administration and project management with expertise in the areas of management consultation and human resources.

An advanced degree with a minimum of 3-5 years professional experience as a congregational pastor or leader with demonstrated accomplishment in church or organizational development and consultation is desired. Commitment to the Christian Reformed Church, the Reformed faith, and the missionary nature of the church is required along with the ability to work in a team setting and the ability to travel. A working knowledge of denominational structure and function is helpful. Reimbursement of relocation cost is available.

A detailed position description is available upon request. For consideration, submit a copy of your resume along with a letter of interest by **Oct. 30, 1998**, to:

Director of Personnel
Christian Reformed Church in North America
2850 Kalamazoo Ave., SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49460-0500
(616) 224-5881/fax (616) 224-5895
E-mail: colemann@crcna.org

ADA REALTY LTD.
2011-137 Ave., Suite 404
Edmonton, AB
T5A 4W2
(403) 473-8149
Sid Vandermeulen
Contact us first when you think of moving to Edmonton and district.
Het vertrouwde adres.

The Living Word
Sermons for reading services.
CRC
Contact:
R. Vander Ploeg Secr./Treas.
37 Brick Pond Lane
Woodstock, ON N4V 1G1
Phone: (519) 539-2117

See our Calendar of Events on page 22...

What if one day next week you couldn't Walk?

Or maybe you couldn't speak clearly. Or your vision was blurred. That's what it's like to live with multiple sclerosis, an unpredictable disease of the central nervous system. Things you take for granted can become impossible and you don't know when or where or if it will strike again. But the research and services programs of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada are providing some answers. With your help, we can connect with a cure.

1-800-268-7582
Multiple Sclerosis
Society of Canada

Classifieds

Bulkley Valley Christian School
is looking for a
PRINCIPAL

for its **elementary** campus. Located in scenic Smithers, B.C, BVCS is looking for a Christian teaching principal for its 215 students in grades K-5, effective September 1999. This position will have administrative duties for 60-70% of the time with teaching duties for the rest.

Bulkley Valley Christian School is a parent run, board directed, interdenominational school, grades K-12, with approximately 430 students at both campuses. Total teaching staff is 28 with 14 at the elementary campus. For more information, please contact Rob Cote or John Bronsema. Interested applicants may forward their resumes to:

Rob Cote, Search Committee Chair
Box 517, Telkwa, BC V0J 2X0, (250) 846-9322 or
John Bronsema, Principal
c/o Bulkley Valley Christian High School
P.O. Box 3635, Smithers, BC V0J 2N0
Phone: (250) 847-4238/Fax: (250) 847-3564
Application deadline is Dec. 18, 1998

Church News

Christian Reformed Church

New address:
— **Bill and Linda Tuininga**, 734 10th Street, New Westminster, BC V3M 3Z9. Phone: (604) 521-2924 (no change). New office address: New West Community Church, #200 555 6th Street, New Westminster, BC V3L 5H1. Phone: (604) 540-5824. E-mail: btuininga@netci.com

Call declined:
— to Guelph, First CRC, **Rev. Henry Jonker** of Victoria, B.C.

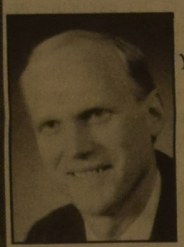
Events

THE KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
Christian University Education

Philosophy Position Opening

The King's University College, a Christian liberal arts college offering 3- and 4-year B.A. and B.Sc. degrees and 2-year after degree B.Ed., invites applications from women and men for a full-time tenure-track position in philosophy. The successful candidate must demonstrate graduate level course work and competence to teach upper-level courses in philosophy of natural and social sciences and history of philosophy (modern, contemporary continental). He or she will also teach introductory undergraduate philosophy which, as part of the College's required core, introduces foundational issues and articulates a Christian approach to philosophy. Research is required of all faculty. Agreement with the University College's Christian Statement of Faith and Mission Statement is required. In accordance with Canadian immigration regulations, this advertisement is addressed first to Canadian citizens and permanent residents. The College encourages all qualified female and male candidates, including visible minorities to apply. **Deadline: December 15, 1998.** Starting date: July 1, 1999. Starting salary: $36,000 and up with a generous benefit plan. Send application letter, curriculum vitae, copies of transcripts, and three referees' names to **Dr. S. Keith Ward, Vice President Academic, The King's University College, 9125 - 50 Street, Edmonton, AB T6B 2H3, Telephone (403) 465-3500; e-mail: skward@kingsu.ab.ca. Web: www.kingsu.ab.ca.**

DON'T LET REVENUE CANADA TAKE 50% OF YOUR ESTATE DISTRIBUTION!



Clarence Weima
Account Executive

You are invited to a special Estate Planning Seminar exclusively for people 55 years of age or older.

Thursday Nov. 5, 1998 — 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Refreshments will be served.
Good News CRC — 476 Clarke Road, **London**, Ont.

Please, Call for Reservations Now!
1-800-488-9817 (24 hour reservation line)
or e-mail weimacl@investorsgroup.com

Investors Group™

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED.
Seminar hosted by: **Clarence Weima** of Investors Group

THE KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
Christian University Education

Biology Position Opening

The King's University College, a Christian liberal arts college offering 3- and 4-year B.A. and B.Sc. degrees and 2-year after degree B.Ed., invites applications from women and men for a full-time tenure track position in biology. The successful candidate must demonstrate graduate level course work and competence to teach courses in Vertebrate Physiology, Genetics, Human Anatomy and Physiology, and Introductory Biology. In addition, he or she must be able to teach several of the following courses: Molecular Cell Biology, Microbiology, Vertebrate Zoology, and Ethology. Supervision of senior research projects will also be required. The successful candidate will join a department in which biology is taught from a historical and theoretical perspective that emphasizes foundational and ethical commitments and that challenges students to develop a stewardship perspective. An interest in the relationship between biology and other academic disciplines is an asset. Research is required of all faculty. Agreement with the University College's Christian Statement of Faith and Mission Statement is required. In accordance with Canadian immigration regulations, this advertisement is addressed first to Canadian citizens and permanent residents. The College encourages all qualified female and male candidates, including visible minorities to apply. **Deadline: January 15, 1999.** Starting date: July 1, 1999. Starting salary: $37,000 and up with a generous benefit plan.
Send application letter, curriculum vitae, copies of transcripts, and three referee's names to **Dr. S. Keith Ward, Vice President Academic, The King's University College, 9125 - 50 Street, Edmonton, AB T6B 2H3, Telephone (403) 465-3500, e-mail: skward@kingsu.ab.ca. Web: www.kingsu.ab.ca**

Calendar of Events

Please submit only brief items. Placement is subject to space availability. Lengthy, multiple-event announcements will be rejected. We reserve the right to edit the material and to charge a nominal, per issue fee per item inserted.

Oct. 9-Dec. 9 CPJ's 35th Anniversary Celebrations - attend an evening of thankfulness and reflection. Call CPJ at (416) 979-2443 or 1-800-667-8046 for info. about your area's event. **Oct. 9: Sarnia, ON; Oct. 13: Kingston, ON; Oct. 17: Halifax, NS; Oct. 21: Ottawa, ON; Nov. 4: Winnipeg, MB; Nov. 5: Regina, SK; Nov. 6: Edmonton, AB; Nov. 7: Calgary, AB; Nov. 9: Smithers, BC; Nov. 10: Vancouver, BC; Nov. 11: Victoria, BC; Nov. 12: Abbotsford, BC; Dec. 4: Toronto, ON; Dec. 8: St. Catharines, ON; Dec. 9: London, ON.**

Oct. 10-31 (exc. Sundays) Art Exhibit by Matth Cupido at Redeemer College Art Gallery, **Ancaster**, Ont. Theme: "Job, Companion of God." The artist looks at the joy and the suffering of God's righteous servant, Job. Info.: (905) 648-2131.

Oct. 22-25 Organ Concert/Hymn Sing, with Dutch organist Sander van Marion , The Ottawa Carleton Male Choir (Brockville, Ottawa & Kingston) and brass musicians. **Oct. 22**: 8 p.m., First Presb. Church, **Brockville**, Ont.; **Oct. 23**: 8 p.m., St. Andrew's Presb. Church, **Ottawa**, Ont.; **Oct. 24**: 8 p.m., St. George's Cathedral, **Kingston**, Ont.; **Oct. 25**: 7:30 p.m., King St. United Church, **Trenton**, Ont. Free-will offering. Info.: (613) 224-1597. (#)

Oct. 24 Cornerstone Bible Institute presents flute, piano and organ benefit concert at 8 p.m., Central Presb. Church, Queen's Square, **Cambridge** (Galt), Ont. Featuring Marjolein de Wit and Martin Zonnenberg, both from the Netherlands, plus organist Willem van Suijdam. Tickets/info.: (519) 650-0012. Also attend CBI's annual fundraising dinner at 7 p.m., Friday, Oct. 23, at the Community CRC, **Kitchener**, Ont. Speaker: Rev. Dion Marshall. (#)

Oct. 24 Annual Arts & Crafts Festival from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Jubilee Fellowship CRC, 13 Wilholme Dr., **St. Catharines**, Ont. Admission: $1. Refreshments, lunch and dessert available. Don't miss this exciting event! Info.: (905) 687-3372.

Oct. 24 Giant Bazaar at Trinity Chr. School, 650 Walkers Line, **Burlington**, Ont., from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., followed by an auction at 6:30 p.m. For info. call (905) 332-3886.

Oct. 26 Senior Citizens' Day, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., at Redeemer College, **Ancaster**, Ont. Speaker, luncheon and musical program. To register, call (905) 648-2131. $12 reg. fee includes lunch.

Breakfast for Learning - Blast off with Breakfast

(NC)—Here's a fun and delicious way to make your breakfast a blast.

Funny Face

Toast a waffle or slice of bread; spread with peanut butter or cream cheese. Decorate with orange or apple slices for a mouth, grated carrot for hair and raisins for eyes.

Get Shaking

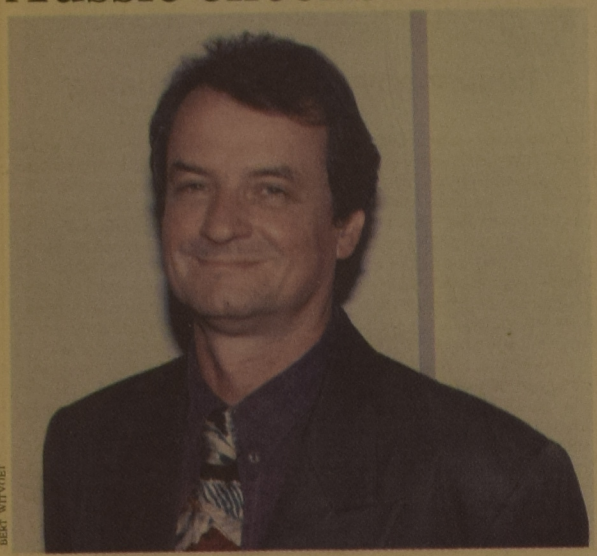
Place a 175 g container of fruit-flavoured or vanilla yogurt in a blender, add 1/2 cup (125 ml) berries or fruit. Blend 1 minute or until fruit is broken up. Pour into a tall glass. Enjoy with a whole-grain muffin or toast.

BREAKFAST FOR LEARNING
Canadian Living Foundation

Breakfast for Learning's vision is that all Canadian children go to school well nourished and ready to learn. For more information call 1-800-627-7922.

- News Canada

Aussie checks in at www.icscanada.edu



BERT WITVOET

Doug Blomberg

Bert Witvoet

TORONTO — Doug Blomberg of Australia has started a three-year stint of teaching half-time at the Institute for Christian Studies (ICS). As senior member in philosophy of education, he will work six months of the year in Toronto and six months in Australia, where he will become academic dean of the National Institute for Christian Education (NICE).

His spiritual roots

At a welcoming evening held for him on Oct. 1, Blomberg said that although he had convict forefathers and had been converted at a Billy Graham rally, "this place [ICS] represents my spiritual and philosophic roots."

Much of Blomberg's research centres on the question of wisdom and schooling, which is also the title of a book he is working on. Christian schools should get rid of the notion that theory is the way to knowledge, says Blomberg.

True knowledge is wisdom, which is the realization of value and living it out. A focus on "academic excellence" is quite contrary to excellence as it is found in the gospels, he added. "Schools too often cater to an elite and sort students according to those who fail and those who succeed."

Blomberg hopes to work with Christian school teachers in Canada as he has in Australia. He and others are developing graduate distance-education courses by making use of the Internet and e-mail, as well as conventional reading material.

"The use of informational technology for student support presents the opportunity for a globally connected community of Christian higher education," he says in an ICS newsletter.

Distance education is already offered by NICE in South Africa.

Anyone who wants to check out the website used by NICE in Australia can go to: **http://www.cpcs.edu.au/nice.htm**

Public becoming more concerned about business ethics

Alan Doerksen

BURLINGTON, Ont. — Although some see "business ethics" as a contradiction in terms, Professor John Sutherland, who teaches business at Trinity Western University in Langley, B.C., sees ethical decision-making as a vital part of the business world.

Recently, the public has become more concerned about business ethics, Sutherland contended during a workshop at the Work Research Foundation's recent conference — Changing Workplace, Unchanging Faith — in Burlington, Ont. To prove his point, Sutherland said that 85 per cent of American MBA programs include ethics courses.

But Sutherland noted, "Business people don't get a lot of help from the church in sorting out business ethics."

Earlier in his career, Sutherland faced ethical problems when working for a steel company which produced steel used in guns used in the Vietnam war, among other materials. This bothered him, but his supervisor told him his convictions were for his private life, not the office. He also faced an ethical dilemma when submitting an expense account. A supervisor encouraged him to spend more while on business trips, and write in extra, false expenses so that his colleagues wouldn't look bad with their higher expenses.

To explore business ethics in more depth, members of the workshop examined two scenarios.

Faith vs. pornography

In one real-life scenario, B.C. millionaire Jim Pattison (who is a professing Christian) has control of a magazine distribution company that distributes pornographic magazines (among others). He ponders what to do with this profitable company.

In the second scenario, the government asks a company to buy costly equipment to reduce emissions. The money is not readily available. The plant manager, who must make a decision about this, holds four sometimes conflicting values:

- shareholder deserve a fair return on their investment;
- employees deserve a fair wage increase;
- customers deserve quality products at reasonable prices;
- the environment must be protected.

For each scenario, participants had to find what the dilemma was, find out who would be affected by a decision, and figure out what the typical business solution would be.

Those who looked at the first scenario found that Pattison's main dilemma was the conflict between his Christian worldview and his connection with marketing pornography. His options were: selling the magazine business, winding it down, or using a new product line. The easiest solution would be to sell the business, participants suggested. But that would only solve Pattison's personal problem of being connected with pornography, not the problem of pornography distribution. If the company was wound down, one negative result would be that employees would lose their jobs. In actual fact, Pattison resolved the issue by selling the company, explained Sutherland.

In scenario B, the main dilemma was how to prioritize the plant manager's values, suggested participants. Most business managers consider shareholders and customers to be more important than the environment. Therefore, a typical business solution would be to lobby the government not to ask for reduced emissions, and to pay fines, if necessary, rather than paying for pollution control equipment. A less typical solution would be to buy the equipment, and sell customers, shareholders and employees on the idea of being known as a "green" company which cares for the environment. Such recognition could result in greater profits, which could cover the cost of pollution controls.

Is justice done?

Sutherland explained that a key issue for him in ethical business decision-making is: "Does the decision allow you to do justice in the marketplace?" The Bible focuses much attention on the importance of doing justice to the poor and vulnerable in society, he noted.

Although many businesses make profitability their central goal, Sutherland asserted, "For me, the issue of profitability is like the issue of breathing." In other words, companies should be profitable in order to survive, but that is not enough.

Smilebit

Handmade lawn sign next to a construction of sorts: "Please pick up what your dog left behind. We don't deliver!"

Seen by editor on morning walk

News Digest

Burger wars

SHALER, Penn. — A war may have started between two burger superpowers, reports the *Globe and Mail*. Recently, a Burger King restaurant in Shaler, Penn., offered Big King sandwiches free to any McDonald's employees who showed up in uniform. Many did so and ate them. But one day, a gang of McDonald's employees, led by assistant manager Natalie Holland, arrived and ordered Big Kings using obscenities. Holland complained loudly about the Burger King promotion, performed a dance holding a Big Mac aloft, and threw her Big King on the floor.

Mark Vinson, owner of the franchise, told reporters, "We don't want to escalate this." Kim Miller, a spokesperson for Burger King headquarters in Miami, said the crankiness of the McDonald's gang was the result of its exposure to burgers that are not flame-broiled.

Marilyn versus Elvis

GUELPH, Ont. (CP) — A Marilyn Monroe look-alike was given a conditional discharge in October for threatening to kill her brother, an Elvis Presley impersonator. Shelley Moyle had been convicted of making a threatening phone call to her brother, Barry Moyle, and his common-law wife.

Before granting Moyle her conditional discharge, Judge Norman Douglas read more than 22 character-reference letters that claimed her behavior was unusual for the otherwise "caring, sensitive" woman. Douglas called the dispute "an unfortunate family feud."

Jailed pastor makes ornaments

WASHINGTON, D.C. (religiontoday.com) — A jailed pastor makes Christmas ornaments. Authorities in China arrested Peter Xu and sentenced him to three years in a labor camp in March 1997, Washington, D.C.-based Center for Religious Freedom said. Xu is being forced to work 10 hours a day making Christmas ornaments in a slave-labor camp, CRF director Nina Shea told Congress this summer. The agency is urging American consumers to boycott Christmas ornaments made in China.

A martyr's creed

Matt Nowak

Dawn arrived ahead of the sun that day. The first signs of pink and orange were just beginning to appear on the eastern horizon. That's when they came.

They smashed through the door while I was sleeping. The crash resonated through the whole house. I could tell something was drastically wrong. I leapt out of bed, virtually flying down the stairs in my haste to get to the bottom. When I got there, I saw my father sitting between two angry men, his eyes flooded with terror. One had my father's Bible in his hand, tearing out pages and scattering them across the living room carpet. The other man, the less important of the two, pressed the barrel of a stolen MK-47 assault rifle into my father's chest.

I gasped in horror.

"What do we have here?" said one man, reeling around with the Bible in his hand, the pages of Acts and Romans settling at his feet. The senior officer barked something I couldn't understand—a foreign tongue, perhaps—to my father's threatener. The man rushed forward and grabbed my arm, twisting me to the ground.

The four of us sat there, staring at each other in silence. My mind was filled with questions: Were these men expecting us to say something? What did they want? I was too terrified to do anything. I just sat quietly, expecting the worst.

Artwork done by Phil Hollander

Without warning or provocation, one soldier lifted his hand, striking my father in the face with his Bible. Stunned by the blow, my father fell back against the concrete floor. The guard walked over to him. "Why?" he spoke so gravely and coldly, I thought he would kill him right there. The soldier lifted him by the collar, and peered into his trembling eyes. "Why did you do it, old man? Why did you break the law of the one true God?"

"The true God," stammered my father, almost too afraid to speak, "made no such law." The soldier, vexed by my father's words, threw him to the ground and kicked him repeatedly in the stomach. My father twisted in agony, his body gasping for relief.

"God's will is for all to worship him," my father managed to squeak out. "He wants all of us to obey his word — the Bible."

My father braced himself for another pummeling, but the soldier instead leaned down into his face. He spoke calmly and evenly. "You are telling lies, old man. I take no pleasure in causing another man's pain," he said with conviction, "but unless you speak the truth, this torment must continue."

"I will never pledge allegiance to your pagan gods!" my father yelled back. "You are the one who is mistaken!" The soldier kicked him again, this time in the face. A crimson tide flowed from his nostrils. My father yelled out in pain, his screams distorted by the gurgling of the blood in his throat. It wounded me to see him so helpless and weak.

The soldier leaned down into his face yet again. He spoke soothingly. "This could all be over in a moment. You will live . . . if you only speak the truth."

My father looked up and studied the soldier's hardened features. A wave of compassion swept over my father's face, as he realized that he was looking into the eyes of a small child; someone who needed Jesus very badly. A tear welled up in my father's eye as he whispered his last words. "I would rather die."

The soldier sighed, dreading what he had to do next. He rose slowly, turned to his subordinate, and nodded hesitantly. Everything happened in slow motion. The rifle man — no more than 19 years old—walked over, lowered his gun, and flicked off the safety. He closed his eyes, sucked in his breath, and sent a single round screaming into my father's stomach.

My ears still ring with the sound of that blast. "No!" I cried, but it was too late. The two soldiers left with their eyes turned down, giving me not so much as a glance.

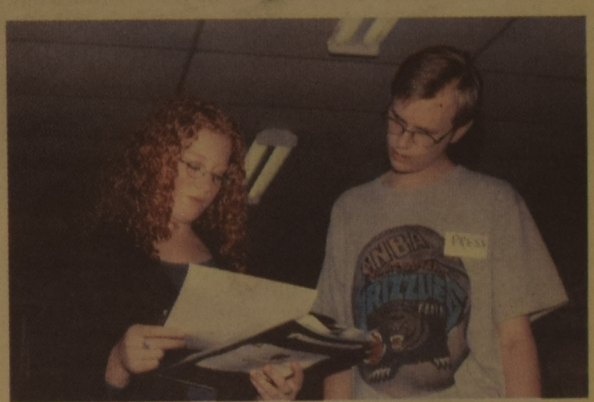
My father lay there on his back, unable to speak because of his bullet wound. I put my hand on his. He squeezed back with a firm reassurance, and made a great effort to smile. I still remember how that grip slowly slipped away as he succumbed to death.

It was the day I learned what true faith meant.

Matt Nowak is a Grade 11 student from Mississauga, Ont. His story was inspired by Dr. Achol Ayom Dor's moving story about suffering for Christ.

Meet the press

This is the crew of TDCH students that put the "Counting the Cost" pages together under the leadership of editors Mike Visser and Janelle Vanderkooy (on roof of bus). From left to right (middle row) are reporters David deGroot, Matt Nowak, Jen Weening, Marcella Knibbe, Gerda Kits, Robyn Konyndyk, Laura Helmus (standing), Kyle Menken and photographer Sean deZoeten. Bottom row: reporters Hannajoy Forsyth, Katherine Aukema and Brandon Weening.



Editors Janelle Vanderkooy and Mike Visser confur on the finer pints of righting!

The sponsorship of this page by **Harry Snoek Ltd.** *has financed the printing and distribution of an extra 3,000 copies of this issue intended for Toronto-area Christian Reformed churches.*